

THE CALCUTTA JOURNAL,

—OF—

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No. I.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

—I—

Politics of Europe.

We had hoped that before we entered on the commencement of another year, we should have had the pleasure to offer our Readers some late intelligence of interest from England: but no Ship from that quarter has arrived either at Bombay, Madras, or Calcutta, of a later date than the middle of July. In the early part of last January, we had French Papers from Bordeaux up to the 26th of August; and allowing even five months for a passage from England, we might have expected by this time London Papers to the beginning of August at least.

There is nothing of very striking interest, however, to excite our impatience for News from home, compared with many former periods, at which the arrival of Ships from England was looked for with intense anxiety, by those who awaited with very different feelings the probable result of some pending negotiation, some public trial, or some important measure in progress through the Houses of Parliament. We had for a long period, the Insurrection of the Greeks, the persecution of the Queen, the Coronation of the King, his visit to the Continent and to Ireland, with other topics of great public interest, to divide society, and furnish materials for conversation among those who always need some strong excitement to induce them to deliver their sentiments on any subject. These have all passed away; and but for the late memorable ferment, which has so speedily subsided, and left the good inhabitants of this City of Palaces in that sort of lethargy which naturally succeeds high excitations and consequent exhaustion, we should have been dull indeed!

The departure of the Governor General, which takes place to-day, and the changes arising from the succession of others to the supreme power, will serve for some weeks to come; and the speculations on the probable determination of Mr. Canning, as to whether he will join the new Administration in England or accept the sovereign rule here, will serve for some weeks more: so that on the whole we need not despair of topics for consideration, enough to last for a month or two in advance; and by that time there will probably be some "great event" as the phrase is, some Royal marriage, some Ministerial manœuvre, or other important intelligence, calculated to agitate all the political world, without however bettering the condition of half a dozen of the beings that inhabit it.

Would that the prospect of the future were brighter! but until Selfishness is more subdued, and men can be taught to live for others as well themselves, we see no end to the plunder of the weak and defenceless being still carried on by the greedy hunters after place and power; until, in short, the maxim so often avowed, but so seldom acted on, that "the benefit of the governed is the only legitimate end of all human rule," is reduced to practice; the amelioration which all liberal or just minds must desire, must make but slow progress, if indeed it advances at all.

In our European Sheets will be found some interesting articles on the Scottish Press, and on the Slave Trade. In the Asiatic Sheets we have included several subjects of a nature

likely to interest many: and we trust that during the coming year, this Department of our Paper will be not less rich than it has hitherto been, in the variety and utility of the Communications with which our past Volumes have been fill'd.

We pass on to the Selection of European News, the latest and perhaps most important of which is the following paragraph from the MORNING HERALD of the 12th of July.

Change in Administration.—A correspondent has sent to us the following, as being some of the rumours at the West end of the Town:—

"Meditated Change in the Administration.—It is now reported, in consequence of recent despatches which have been received from India, that it is extremely doubtful whether Mr. Canning will proceed thither as Governor General.—The health of the Noble Marquis at the head of the present Government in Hindostan is said to be so much improved, that it is now understood he has been prevailed upon to continue his Governor-Generalship for a longer period than he lately contemplated. Notwithstanding this unexpected change in the political world, a coalition in the Administration of the Government of the country is still confidently talked of.—It is now said that the Marquis of Londonderry's health has suffered so much from the fatigues of office, and from his continued exertions in the House of Commons, that it is his Lordship's intention to resign office after the close of the present Session.—The Earl of Liverpool also suffers from ill health and the labours of office, and would it is said, very willingly retire from public business. Mr. Peel is mentioned as the successor of the Marquis of Londonderry, and Mr. Charles Grant as the President of the Board of Control—the Grenville party not being included in the meditated arrangements.—The retirement of the Lord Chancellor is revived, and it is rumoured that his successor will be appointed after the close of the present Session."

London, Saturday, June 29, 1823.—Madrid papers to the 20th instant arrived yesterday, by an extraordinary conveyance. In the UNIVERSAL of the 18th we find an explanation addressed to the Cortes by Don Ramon Filio, who was Minister of the Interior, when General Riego was dismissed. This ex-Minister says that in consequence of seeing a representation of Riego to the Cortes, strongly censuring his conduct, and calling for his impeachment, he was induced to offer this statement for his own justification. He declares that Riego had no right to make the complaint which he did, because, in signing the order for depriving him of the general command of Aragon, he infringed no article of the constitution, and broke no law of the kingdom. In conclusion, he demands that if his trial is to go on before the commission to which it was referred, he should be heard in his own defence.

An interesting discussion took place in the Cortes on the 15th on the state of the nation, when the report of the commission was referred to, and its suggestions taken into consideration. Senor Galiano said he was disposed to agree to most of his recommendations, although he would strongly object to receive the whole of them. He agreed with the commission in thinking that the lamentable state of the country arose from various causes, some of which were inevitable; that many of the evils which

afflicted them sprung up with the very reforms on which they placed their hopes of ultimate benefit; but that others arose from the discontent of persecuted individuals, and were fomented by foreigners—by a foreign government, which the Cortes had denominated the most odious of all Europe, because it employed its forces against a neighbouring nation, which it had not courage to oppose face to face.

Senor Castejas quoted a part of the report, and found fault with many parts of the system which had been pursued since the re-establishment of the constitution, and the delays observed in some celebrated processes and dispositions made by the different departments, the motives of which he could not comprehend.

After some observations from Arguelles, and several other members, the Cortes agreed to receive the report of the commission.

From the proceedings of the Sitzing of the Cortes of the 16th day, we give the following extract relative to the late loan:

"There was read this day a dispatch from the Minister of Finance, which stated, that in consequence of the decree of the Cortes respecting the loan negotiated between the late minister Vallejo and the house of Ardonio, Hubbard, and Co., there had been various conferences held with the contractors, and the result was, that they had changed the conditions according to the plan which had been submitted to the Cortes for its approbation. The plan was then read. Senors Ithuriz, Ferrer, and Canga, requested a special commission on the subject, and the result being against them, the Deputies Canga and Ferrer said they could not concur with the late committee, of which they were members, because they could not understand the subject. It was then agreed that this plan should be referred to the first finance committee, to prepare it with proper dispatch."

We received last night by an express from Paris, the journals of Thursday. In the Chamber of Deputies on the preceding day, a discussion took place upon the project of law for the regulation of the customs, when M. Laine, who opened it, quoted the example of England, in justification of severe commercial restrictions; and "the system of prohibition," he said, "to which the continental blockade had given an immense application during the war, had been continued and even extended since the peace. After having been directed at first against England, and then against France, it had been put in practice by all states against each other. England, now imitated every where, had first adopted the system, and it was not, therefore, very remarkable, that, finding it enforced against her, she should be inclined to change her practice. She had derived from prohibitions all the advantages that she could hope for; she had accumulated immense capitals: her industry had been so much developed, that she was obliged to seek for a large outlet, and perhaps on this account she had come to the point of saying, 'now we will receive you, only receive us.' After some other considerations on the external and internal commerce of France, and having pointed out the advantages which would arise by treaties and commercial relations with new states, without, however, expressing any opinion on the political question, M. Laine declared his opinion in favour of continuing and extending the relations of the kingdom with the Indies, with Brazil, and the Havannah. He strongly objected to the imposition of a duty on foreign sugars, sufficiently high to enable the colonies to sell their produce at 83%, as was proposed in the project, pointing out the danger which would result from fixing by law an arbitrary price upon commodities. If the colonies were gratified in a claim of this kind, he saw no reason for refusing it to the growers of grain or possessors of vineyards. He thought it at least doubtful whether the French colonies could supply a sufficient quantity of sugar for the consumption of France, and therefore if foreign sugar were prohibited, or subjected to prohibitory duties, the price of the article would rise in a proportion not to be calculated. The ex-Minister concluded by proposing to reduce to 25c., the duty on the exportation of wine for whatever country

destined. An interruption succeeded, when M. de Pompiers endeavoured to speak, and his opponents to protect themselves against his speech by cries of "question." He, however, persisted, and was heard. The greatest part of his speech consisted in the defence of a free trade. "Can you hope," said he, "that in prohibiting the introduction of foreign produce, foreigners will not prohibit yours. If you can conceive such a hope," added he, "I will refer you to our history for its frustration. In 1666, Colbert imposed heavy duties upon articles of foreign manufacture; Holland remonstrated, and on the refusal to alleviate them, she prohibited our wines, our brandies, and our manufactures." Various amendments were then proposed. One member suggested that the duties on sugars from the French colonies should be reduced 1/4th on their present amount. Another, that the duties on sugar should be reduced to 10% per quintal. The last proposition was rejected.—The Chamber adjourned at 6 o'clock.

The following intelligence from Catalonia appears in these papers:

Barcelona, June 15.—The Insurgents commanded by Mosen-Anton to the number of 800 men, were beaten at Olost, near Vich, on the 10th inst. General Minals, known in the war of independence, left Vich to attack them with his division. The firing commenced at four o'clock in the morning, and at half-past six the rebels abandoned the field of battle to the constitutional troops, leaving 100 dead on the spot, and a more considerable number wounded. Six insurgents, taken with arms in their hands, were tried on the following day by a court-martial. Four were condemned and shot; the two remaining were spared on account of their extreme youth.—*The Times*.

What's o'Clock.—When General Fitzpatrick was Captain in a Regiment, he and his lady were travelling in Yorkshire; they put up at an inn, where the happened to be only as much in the larder as would serve them for dinner, which was immediately ordered. In the mean time some Sporting gentlemen coming in, and finding there was nothing in the house but what was getting ready for another company, asked who they were? The landlord told them he did not exactly know, but he believed it was an Irish Officer. "Oh! then if he's Irish," said one of them, "a potatoe will serve him: here, waiter, take up this watch," pulling out an elegant gold one. "Carry it up stairs, and ask the gentlemen what's o'clock?" The waiter at first remonstrated: but the company insisting upon his delivering the message, he was obliged to comply. Mr. Fitzpatrick, as may well be imagined, was surprised at such an impudent message; but recollecting himself in a moment, he took the watch from the waiter, and sent his compliments to the company, and that he would tell them what's o'clock before he parted. This message, however, produced his dinner to be sent up in quiet: after which, he put a pair of holster-pistols under his arm, and going down stairs, introduced himself to the company by telling them he was come to let them know what o'clock it was: but first begged to be informed to which of the gentlemen the watch belonged. Here a dead silence ensued. Mr. Fitzpatrick then began on his right hand, by asking them severally the question, each of whom denied knowing any thing of the circumstance. "Oh! then gentlemen, I find I have mistaken the company: but the waiter awhile ago brought me an impudent message from some people in this house, which I came, as you see, (pointing to his pistols,) properly to resent; but I find I have mistaken the room." Saying this, he wished them a good evening, which they politely returned, paid his bill, stepped into his chaise with his lady, and drove off with the watch in his pocket, which he kept till his death.

Military Bon Mot.—The cautious conduct of a Commander of the Allied Army at the battle of Fostenoy, called forth the ridicule of his friends, and procured him the jocular appellation of the *Confectioner*; for being asked why he did not move forward to the front with more rapidity, he replied, "I am preserving my men."

Scottish Press.

MR. ABERCROMBY'S MOTION—SCOTTISH PRESS—LORD ADVOCATE OF SCOTLAND.

Supplement to the Session, June 29, 1822.

With respect to himself, if he had done wrong—if he had acted against the spirit of the constitution, the blame must fall upon him. He acted from himself. He did not act with the concurrence of the Government. He never consulted them in any step of the proceedings he had taken.—*Report of Lord Advocate's Speech, Morning Chronicle.*

Although we had cherished some rooted dislike at Sir W. Rae, the plight he is in at present would have extinguished it. While Sheriff of Edinburgh, we thought from some of his Orders of Court, or Acts of Service, that his respect was not too great for constitutional principles; and we need not conceal that, when the large and undefined powers of Lord Advocate and Secretary of State for Scotland were placed in his hands, we had some apprehensions about the liberties of this provincial portion of the Island. It is only justice, however, to add, that while there is more than one of his official acts of which we cannot approve, he has displayed, generally, a much greater degree of moderation and temperance, than we had anticipated. With regard to the Press, however, he has certainly acted under the influence of some malignant star. We had not, we own, discovered in any of his public appearances, a mind capable of seizing the spirit, and grasping all the bearings of the times. His speeches displayed none of the philosophy or sagacity that was requisite for such a purpose; but we thought we saw glimpses of as much elevation and courage, as would save him from falling a victim to any enter of desperadoes in political adventure. His situation, however, was difficult and perilous. The reins were put into his hands after Blair was dead, and when the ministerial party in Scotland had little or no strength, moral or intellectual, to rest upon; when they wanted such men as England had in Lord Liverpool, Mr. Vansittart, and some others, to bind the indiscremating and well meaning part of society to Administration. Lord Advocate Rae was not thus put in paroxysm with his predecessors in Scotland, or his colleagues in the South. He found no talent and principle united stirring on his own side. Nothing was there in action but the genius of mischief. Apparently unaware that the genius of reason had acquired an ascendancy on the other side, and that the liberal and sound principles which had been disseminated and circulated incessantly for nearly twenty years, were supported by a body of honest sentiment in the mass of society, he seems to have been persuaded, at last, that the progress of knowledge might be arrested by unremitting and rancorous abuse, backed by the countenance and authority of official personages. This is not assertion: It is inference drawn from the sort of connexion which his Lordship, somehow or other, formed with the worst portions of the press.

It is needless to remind our readers, that the excesses of the Edinburgh press, in matters of private slander and personal abuse, had been felt, exposed, and execrated very shortly before Sir William Rae received his appointment as Lord Advocate; or that, within a very short period after he had received it, an example was set, in the way of bestowing patronage, which could not fail to operate mischievously on the minds of other aspirants attached to the same party. We do not say that his Lordship was implicated in that affair; but a reference to it was indispensable, for the purpose of showing that the Lord Advocate could not be ignorant of the odium which had just been excited against a scurrilous press. The publication to which we allude was the first that made a practice of wounding feelings in such a manner that the aggrieved party saw that to seek redress was to acknowledge a triumph against himself; and of holding out, that those who scattered the poisoned arrows were better marksmen than any of those against whom they were directed. The system, in short, which was then acted upon, and which seemed to be encouraged by those in authority, was to run down by abuse, or to put down by the pistol, every man who had the slightest pretensions to independence. It was obvious enough, that if, after what had passed, the authorities in Scotland did not publicly disown and disclaim such doings, publications like the one especially referred to would increase, and that the jewels contained in them would lose nothing of their peace-breaking qualities. Accordingly, as had, in a series, the CLEYDALE JOURNAL, the BEACON, and the former continued and reinforced with the remains of the BEACON, under the name of SENTINEL, —the last being, if possible, the lowest and the worst. Accordingly, also, we find Tory writers promoted to the Offices under the Crown. We do not know, and do not care about knowing, what Mr. Duncan M'Neill wrote and did for the EDINBURGH WEEKLY CHRONICLE, even although it was a deadly enemy to the SCOTSMAN; but we do know that Mr. M'Neill was connected with that newspaper, and that he is now a depute to the Lord Advocate. We do not know exactly all that Mr. William Russell did for and about the EDINBURGH CORRESPONDENT,

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE, and the BEACON; but Mr. Russell is now second Solicitor to the Board of Excise, with a salary, we believe, of about £600 a-year. It is another great misfortune for Sir William Rae at present, that his statements in Parliament are reported by persons who were probably unacquainted with many of the circumstances to which he referred. To this must be imputed the numerous errors which appear in the newspapers. If it were in our power, we should give a correct edition of his speech; but, as it is, we must content ourselves with remarking on what we think erroneous. If the Lord Advocate had really been so intimately connected with Lanarkshire as he is made to state, we think it would have been impossible for him to be ignorant of the real character of the CLEYDALE JOURNAL, or the connection which the Sheriff-substitute and his relations had with that newspaper. It abounded in libels; and it was no improbable thing that the Substitute might be called upon to return part of an assize to the jury court at Glasgow, to try an action for damages founded on some article written by himself. This was a state of things which if known, could not have been allowed to continue; and it is one of the most frightful consequences of persons holding offices taking part in conducting, or an interest in supporting the press on one side of politics, that they must often be called upon to exercise a discretion under circumstances infinitely too trying for any human virtue. There might be some reason for desiring to have a counteracting Tory paper in the west when the CLEYDALE JOURNAL was first set on foot. Borthwick might intend it as antidote to M'Leod's "Spirit of the Union;" but the Radical press, as it was called, was extinguished, and M'Leod himself convicted in January 1820. The Bonny-muir affair took place in the beginning of April, and the trials of that unexplained movement were closed in July. Not only, therefore, was all quiet in November, 1820, when the certificate was given in favour of the CLEYDALE JOURNAL, but the uselessness of the Journal as a vehicle for political discussion was fully ascertained. It had answered no purpose but to embroil neighbours and embitter private life. Unfortunately, also, the certificate bears, that those who give it recommend the Journal on their experience of what it had been, and declare that on the whole, it has been conducted to their satisfaction; but still more unfortunately, it was said in Edinburgh, before any report of the debate reached this place, that this certificate, (which let it be observed, was not among those recovered from Mr. Borthwick or his agent, and inventoried by the Sheriff of Edinburgh,) would be denied by the Lord Advocate. The truth, as we understand, is, that a great number—about two hundred—of the forms of this certificate had been circulated for signatures,—that all but two had been got in and destroyed,—but that the one actually subscribed by the Lord Advocate had been returned to Borthwick, and never parted with by him, until he placed it in the hands of Mr. Abercromby. We must hold therefore that the solemn denial—even in the first instance—ascribed to the Lord Advocate, of his having subscribed such a certificate, must arise from some misapprehension on the part of the parliamentary reporters; for we cannot believe that such a denial was made. We are just as little able to believe that his Lordship asserted he had never read more than the Prospectus of the BEACON;—that he never looked at a publication on which the hopes of his party were placed, to support which he had subscribed £100 of his own money, and which, from its unparalleled bitterness and malignity, and the number of scurrilous and personal libels contained in it, had excited so much notice, and drawn upon itself so much of the public execration! An attempt is made to ridicule Mr. Jeffrey in the very first number; and Messrs. Clerk, Moncrieff, Grant, Murray, Brougham, Jeffrey, Gibson, and Stuart, with the Reverend Andrew Thomson, and Professor Leslie, are libelled in the second. The same persons, with the addition of Lord Erskine, Mr. Lambton, and Mr. Spiers, are libelled in the third; Sir James Mackintosh, in the fourth; and those follow in groups or series, Lord A. Hamilton, Sir R. Ferguson, Dr. Cook, and Messrs. Hume, Bennet, Kennedy, Maxwell, Cunningham, and a host of others, from the patriotic Peer down to the independent Commissioners of Police. The man who endeavoured to discharge a duty of any kind to the public, got well off if he was called only "an inflamed idiot"—"a mountebank"—"a miserable nameless creature"—and "a plebeian." Treatment like this was handsome; for the most common was gross and foul personal abuse; and while Nims, the journeyman, who, according to the master with whom he served his apprenticeship, never could write a paragraph, was set up as Editor, and latterly made printer also, the real authors of the libels insisted that the publication was of all others the most gentlemanlike, since they were ready at all times to send a bullet through the brains of any one who should be hardy enough to complain of their proceedings! How all this could go on for nine months without coming to the knowledge of the Lord Advocate is truly astonishing; and the more so, that during the months of January, February, and March 1821, the attention of every one was called in a most especial manner to the libelling portion of the press, by the correspondence between Messrs. Scott and Lockhart, and the death of Mr. Scott. But we cannot account for what is absolutely unaccountable. If the Lord Advocate was ignorant of the manner in which the BEACON was conducted, he was, we believe, the only person in or connected with Scots-

land who remained in that state of enviable ignorance. Complaints were made as to the ease of Borthwick being mixed up with Mr. Abercromby's motion respecting the press. But were they not, from their very nature, inseparable? It was Borthwick who, as proprietor of the CLYDESDALE JOURNAL, had applied to his Lordship, in November 1819, for the government advertisements. It was for Borthwick that the certificate was given in November 1821. In March last, Mr. Stuart stated to the Sheriff of Edinburgh, that the certificate or recommendation had been signed by the Lord Advocate. This afforded a notice of three months; and the document itself, with his Lordship's name appended to it, was printed and published by Borthwick fourteen days previously to the debate in Parliament. In that publication, also, the whole case of Borthwick, and the part that Mr. John Hope and the Advocates Depute had taken in it, was laid fully before the public; so that these gentlemen must have been obtuse indeed, if they did not perceive that this case would unavoidably form a leading feature in the discussion. His Lordship is also made to state, by way of complaint, that the action for damages, brought against him and the other bondsmen, at the instance of Mr. Gibson, would be tried in ten days; but it ought to have been known to his Lordship in London, that the case in question could not possibly be tried until November, although, had it not been for delays sought and obtained by the defendants, in spite of all possible exertions on the part of the plaintiff, that cause should have been tried some months ago. If there was any hardship here, therefore, it was either incidental, or occasioned by his Lordship and the other bondsmen themselves. Another error has unluckily crept into his Lordship's statement. There was no sale by Borthwick of his types to Alexander previously to their leaving Hamilton, neither was the SENTINEL a new paper. Borthwick had taken Alexander into partnership with him in Hamilton, and they continued for some time to carry on the paper in Glasgow, under the firm of Borthwick and Alexander, the title of the publication being "The GLASGOW SENTINEL, late the CLYDESDALE JOURNAL." It was circulated by the same frank, among the same subscribers, and carried on for the same parties. It is also an error, in substance, to say that the BEACON continued to be published some time after the bondsmen withdrew their names. The meeting at which their resolution was taken was held on Wednesday, 19th September—it was intimated to the bankers on 20th September—it was given to the public only upon the 24th, and the last number of the BEACON was published on Saturday, the 22d of September, probably for the purpose of getting rid of their set-up matter, and their wetted stumps! Let it also be remembered that, on 13th September, a week preceding the dissolution of the concern, Mr. Stuart had commenced a correspondence with the Lord Advocate, in relation to injuries done in the BEACON to his private character, the object of which could not be, and was not misunderstood. Mr. Gibson also was now in motion; and although the circumstances of the BEACON being "ill conducted and stupid," might be a reason for stopping it more willingly, matters had really got into the serious shape now mentioned before any thing was done to alter or arrest its course. The great workshop of calumny was kept open as long as the mainsprings which kept the machinery in motion were concealed. As soon as these were disclosed to the public eye it was broken up; and the materials of abuse sent or carried to another manufactory, the distance and obscurity of which held out a better prospect of concealment; for Borthwick states expressly, that on returning from England, he found various BEACON libels in his printing Office. It was not the sin which seemed to be disliked, but its consequences—loss of reputation—loss of money, and, perhaps what some might consider of less importance, loss of life.

It seems to have been alleged, on the other side, that the House of Commons were called upon to decide on the Statement of Mr. Abercromby only; but that gentleman, it must never be forgotten, offered to prove his statements. No answer was made, as far as we can perceive, to what he stated respecting the plan of infusing some more spirit into the Correspondent, by making an Irish Student, not known in the city, and unacquainted himself with the citizens, Editor of that paper. But these are minor concerns. What Mr. Abercromby complained of—and what the country has deep reason to complain of—is, that the Lord Advocate—the grand conservator of the peace—who unites in his own character the functions of public accuser and grand jury, and who, from possessing almost unlimited powers, has the highest duties of impartiality to perform to all parties—should have connected himself with or patronised publications, which were daily sowing the seeds of bitterness, kindling the flames of discord, and giving rise to strife of all kinds, legal and personal. Who is he that has not been libelled, abused, and vilified in the BEACON, the CLYDESDALE JOURNAL, or the SENTINEL? And how is the Lord Advocate—supposing him to be as just as Aristides—to relieve the apprehensions of others—to be quite certain himself that his mind is free of bias and prejudice? No man has right to put in a claim to impartiality, unless he has had wisdom enough to keep clear of those connections and temptations which naturally produce partiality of feeling! If Crown Council have acted so as to give rise to questions about their responsibility for a series of foul libels as ever

disgraced literature, or wounded the feelings of good men; if a sheriff-substitute is found acting as Editor to such a publication; if a higher judge is ascertained to have acted, not merely as an adviser and sometimes a dictator, but as a superior editor; or if the Clerk of a Court takes part in treatises about the mode of conducting political discussions, how is it possible to retain confidence in the administration of justice? We do not say that a man may not be led inconsiderately to implicate himself to a certain degree in such matters, but, even in that case, his position is dangerous to himself and to all around him. Functionaries of all kinds are, no doubt, entitled to form opinion; but they are not entitled to create interest, especially of a concealed nature, which, in the nature of things, must give a bias to their feelings, and disqualify them from impartially discharging their duties to the public. On this topic we had a great deal more to say; but our limits are nearly exhausted. The Lord advocate has escaped going before a Committee—narrowly and on grounds which do not exhaust the questions started by Mr. Abercromby. Out of a house of 215, (a great number on a Scotch question,) there was a majority of only 25 against the motion; and this vote was sought by Ministers on the grounds, that the case of Borthwick should be taken up separately upon a special notice (which is now given); that there was not time during the present Session for a Committee going through such a question; and that, although there was imprecision, there was no criminality. His Lordship it has been said, spoke in a slow, hesitating, and not clear manner—in a tone which rather deprecated severity than avowed rectitude. But, after all, we are pleased with the issue. We would rather see his Lordship continue than see him succeeded in office by any of those about him in Scotland. Mr. John Hope, we understand, complains of his name having been bandied about in the house, on account of having subscribed a pleading for Mr. MacNeill. To get rid of all responsibility on this head, Mr. Hope has only to declare, that he signed the paper, as is usual in such cases, without knowing the sort of pleas that were stated in it. For his share in the treatment of Mr. Borthwick, Mr. Hope, we trust, has yet to abide the result of a discussion in Parliament. If not, it is full time that we should all be taking our departure for America. They order these matters otherwise on that side of the Atlantic. The answer of his party, we know, has been—let those who do not like their country leave it—but what sort of country would it be to them without an industrious population? And was there ever such a people without law, or who lived long under the iron hand of oppression? But although our facts are not exhausted, and although, from some accidental circumstances, we have only had the command of a few hours to get up some desultory and hasty remarks, we must leave the subject at present. It will be resumed, however, on some early occasion.

The Booshunes—The Royal Family were at dinner, in the corner of their yard, outside the house. The King's distinction seemed to consist in his sitting next the pot that contained the boiled beans on which they were dining, and having the only spoon we saw, with which he helped himself and his friends, by putting a portion into each hand as it was held out to him. One of the Princesses was employed in cutting with an axe dried paunch into small pieces, and putting them into a pot to be boiled, either to complete that repast or to serve for another soon after. Certainly an Englishman would be dying for want of food, before he accepted an invitation to dine with the King of Lattakoo.—*Campbell's Missionary Travels in South Africa*.

Sir Wm. Curtis.—The worthy Baronet, they report, is so indignant at his late treatment by the Common Council, that he has it in contemplation to withdraw from the City the light of his countenance. They say he means to retire to the Galapagos islands, being peculiarly struck with the account the American Capt. Porter gives of the enormous but delicious land tortoises (some of them reaching 400 pounds weight) which abound there. "Their motion (says Capt. Porter) resembles strongly that of the elephant; their steps slow, regular, and heavy; they carry their body about a foot from the ground, and their legs and feet bear no slight resemblance to the animal to which I have likened them; their neck is from 18 inches to 2 feet in length, and very slender; their head is proportioned to it, and strongly resembles that of a serpent; but hideous and disgusting as is their appearance, no animal can possibly afford a more wholesome, luscious, and delicate food than they do: the finest green turtle is no more to be compared to them in point of excellence, than the coarsest beef is to the finest veal; and after once tasting the Galapagos tortoises, every other animal food will greatly in one estimation. The meat is the easiest of digestion; and a quantity of it, exceeding that of any other food, can be eaten without experiencing the slightest inconvenience."—Now who would not be glad to change such treats as the Common Council are in the habit of giving Sir Wm. Curtis, for these Galapagos delights? This account of Capt. Porter makes one almost wish with the epicure Quin, that our throats were a mile long, with palate all the way; that is, if we could take up our abode in the Galapagos islands.

PARLIAMENTARY.

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Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 1822.

SLAVE TRADE.

Mr. WILBERFORCE addressed the house, but in a tone of voice so extremely low and indistinct that very few of his observations were audible in the gallery. If we heard him rightly, he commenced by observing, that as Parliament had some years ago come to a determination to abolish the slave trade, it was incumbent upon it to endeavour to make the measures it had agreed to for its abolition as complete and effectual as possible. For that purpose, application had been made to several foreign powers for their assistance, and the object of his mission was to obtain the production of the correspondence which had taken place between them and this Government. After referring to some despatches of Sir George Collier, and of Lord Clancarty, in so low a tone as to render it quite impossible for us to discover how he connected them with the subject, he proceeded to express his satisfaction that the Spanish Cortes had passed a law, inflicting an infamous punishment upon every Spanish subject engaged in the slave trade; and that they had determined to treat all persons found guilty of it within their dominions as felons, punishable with ten years' labour on the public works, and also to manumit immediately the unfortunate persons whom they had destined to slavery. If this law were faithfully administered, it would cause the people of this country to feel a greater interest over than that which they now felt in the independence of the Spanish nation. He then expressed the gratitude which he felt towards the Count Torreno, for the great exertions which he had made to obtain the sanction of the Cortes to this humane and admirable law; and afterwards contrasted with it the conduct and policy observed by the late Court of Portugal on the same subject. The conduct of the late government of that country, with regard to the slave trade, was disgraceful and discreditable to it in the extreme; yet there was one merit in it which he could not overlook—and that was its perfect consistency. At the congress of Vienna, where all the other powers agreed to a declaration against the slave trade, and promised to abolish it within a certain number of years, Portugal showed a strong disposition to dissent from it; and it was only by a conditional promise of certain commercial advantages to her on our part, that a reluctant consent to it was wrung from her. There was some consolation that these advantages had not been granted to her, since she had totally failed to perform what she promised. It was not without a pang that he recollects that certain portions of Africa had been left exposed to the tender mercy of the Portuguese; but still he had some satisfaction in reflecting, that by leaving them so exposed, 3,000 leagues of coast to the north of the Line had been rescued from their open and avowed depredations. Still ships of theirs were to be found all along the coast, and it was to be feared that the governors of some of their settlements not only encouraged the traffic, but absolutely shared in the profits it produced. The lovers of liberty for themselves, ought to be lovers of liberty for others; and he should think it a bad omen for the future independence of Portugal if its government did not take some steps to put down this disgraceful, sanguinary, and inhuman traffic. The honourable gentleman proceeded then to state the various topics which the address he should propose was meant to embrace. It would be recollect that the committee appointed by the House of Representatives of the United States of America, last year recommended the adoption of this principle—a qualified right of search to be reciprocal as between the nations of Europe and herself. And really, seeing how distinct such a right must be considered as incidental only to the necessity which existed of effectually putting down this fatal commerce; and only to be exercised in time of peace—how different this must be from a right of search to be put in execution on more invidious principles, and under other circumstances, America would not long refuse to acquiesce, nor be backward to exert herself in a cause where the happiness of so many millions of the human race was concerned. Notwithstanding the able and forcible arguments of our minister at the court of the Netherlands, there seemed to be in that quarter no eagerness to co-operate in the just and benevolent policy of England. Whatever political or commercial prejudices might have operated to retard the enactment of effective measures against the slave trade, in the House of Representatives, it was impossible to praise too warmly the zealous exertions of American officers, to second our efforts on the coast of Africa, for the extinction of the trade. The next power to which he would advert was France (*hear, hear*), and her conduct on this subject must give every member of that house the greatest pain, whether her rank as a nation was considered, or her civilisation, her humanity, and her generally enlightened policy were remembered. (*hear.*) But it was distressing to observe, from the reports which had been laid before Parliament, that to whatever part of Africa their eyes were directed, whether in the bays or up the rivers, on the coast or in the interior, there were the frightful traces of the French slave-trade, as it was termed—there were the strongest proof of its activity, and the most melancholy

evidence of its atrocity. (*hear, hear.*) Even in the French dominions, and in their colonies, advertisements and offers were publicly exposed in order to tempt adventurers to embark in this nefarious pursuit the smallest profit under the prospect of the largest advantage. (*hear, hear.*) If France and America could be once prevailed upon cordially to join us in a common measure, ultimate success must be certain; but at present it was most extraordinary to find, that while the government of France, reprobating in terms this dreadful commerce, but permitting, in effect, her own subjects to embark most largely and most notoriously in it, expressed its desire to remedy this evil, the strange forbearance of her executive was only strengthening it from day to day. It was not less extraordinary, that since the revolution in France, religion was said very much to have increased and flourished in that kingdom, but the prosperity of the slave trade had kept an equal pace with it; and he (Mr. Wilberforce) must be allowed to say, that he very much distrusted the character of any religion whose advancement was co-equal and commensurate with a guilty and inhuman trade. He hoped, however, that his Majesty's ministers would in future persevere in exerting the same eloquence and ability which they had already manifested, in their communications on this subject with foreign courts; and continue their zealous support to a cause, whose noble peculiarity it was, to be that one upon which men of every party in that house were agreed (*hear, hear.*) its object being to secure the happiness of their fellow-creatures. (*loud cheering.*) The honourable gentleman, after some further observations which will be found embodied in the subjoined address, concluded by moving it, as the address of the house.

Mr. W. SMITH seconded the motion, and the address was read from the chair:—

"Resolved, *nomine confidencient*, That an humble address be presented to his Majesty, to represent to his Majesty that the deep interest which this house has so long taken, and still continues to take, in the abolition of the slave trade, has led us to persevere with no little solicitude the papers relative to that subject, which by his Majesty's commands were lately laid before us; nor could we forbear indulging a hope that his Majesty's renewed representations and remonstrances would have at length produced the desired effect of causing the various Governments by whose subjects the slave trade was still carried on, seriously to consider the numerous and powerful obligations under which they lay, to co-operate with his Majesty, heartily and efficiently, in order to put an end for ever to this enormous evil.

"But that we have learned with grief and shame, that with very few exceptions, every hope of this nature has been altogether frustrated, and that we are still compelled to witness the strange and humiliating spectacle of practices which are acknowledged to be made up of wickedness and cruelty by the very governments whose subjects are nevertheless carrying them on upon a great and continually increasing scale.

"That we observe, however, with satisfaction, that the powerful reasoning and continued expostulations of his Majesty's government, enforced by the strong and persevering remonstrances of his Majesty's Ambassador at the court of the Netherlands, have at length produced an admission of the just construction of the treaty with that Power,

"That we are glad to see that some of the abuses have been corrected which had prevailed in the conduct of the courts of mixed jurisdiction at Sierra Leone, but that experience has proved the necessity of altering that provision, which renders it necessary for the slaves to have actually on ship board to justify the condemnation of the vessel, and of allowing due weight to be given to that decisive proof of the object of the voyages, which is afforded by the peculiar mode of fitting and equipping slave vessels.

"That it is some alleviation of the pain produced by the almost uniform tenor of these distressing accounts, to learn that the Cortes of Spain have subjected all who should be found concerned in slave trading to a severe punishment; and that with this evidence of a just estimate of the guilt of the crime, we cannot but hope that they will not rest satisfied with legal prohibition, but they will provide the requisite means for carrying their law into execution.

"That we find with concern that the vessels of Portugal, so far from gradually retiring from the trade, have been carrying it on with increased activity, more especially on that very part of the coast which is to the north of the Line, in direct violation of the treaty by which she had stipulated to confine her trade to the south of it.

"That we cannot but cherish the hope, that the new Government of Portugal will manifest a warmer zeal for enforcing a treaty which every law, divine or human, binds her to observe; that we have observed with no little pleasure the seal for the abolition of the slave trade that has been manifested by the commanders of the ships of war of the United States of America, employed on the coast of Africa, and the disposition they have shown to co-operate with officers of his Majesty's navy for their common object; but that we are concerned to have perceived in the American Government no disposition to give up the objections it formerly

urged against the establishment of a mutual right of examining each other's ships on the coast of Africa. That we had hoped that powerful arguments used by a committee of the House of Representatives in favour of this arrangement would have their just weight, more especially that which points out the difference, or rather contrariety, between this conventional and qualified system and the right of searching neutral vessels, without any previous treaty, as claimed and practised in war. Above all, that the consideration so strongly enforced, that it is only by the establishment of some such system that the trade can ever be effectually abolished, would have induced the American Government to consent to it, when the object in question involves the rights and happiness of so large a portion of our fellow-creatures.

"That with the deepest concern we find, as in the last year, vessels under the French flag trading for slaves along the whole extent of the coast of Africa; at home and abroad, proposals are circulated for slave trading voyages, inviting the smallest capitals, and tempting adventurers by the hopes of enormous profits. That the few ships of war of that country stationed in Africa offer no material obstruction to the trade, nor do the governors of her colonies appear to be more active; and all this while the French Government reprobates the traffic in the strongest terms, and declares, that it is using its utmost efforts for the prevention of so great an evil. That it is deeply to be regretted that a government which has been generally regarded as eminent for its efficiency, should here alone find its efforts, so entirely paralysed. That, meanwhile, we can only continue to lament that a great and gallant nation, eminently favoured by Providence with natural advantages, and among the very foremost in all the distinctions and enjoyments of civilized life, should thus, on its restoration to the blessings of peace, and to the government of its legitimate sovereign, appear, in fact, to be the chief agent in blasting the opening prospects of civilization, which even Africa had begun to present, and in prolonging the misery and barbarism of that vast Continent.

"That on the whole we conjure his Majesty to renew his remonstrances, and to render it manifest that his interference has not been a matter of form, but of serious and urgent duty. That this country will at least have the satisfaction of knowing that we have been active and unwearied in making reparation to Africa for the wrongs with which we ourselves were so long chargeable, and we cannot doubt that we shall ultimately be able to congratulate his Majesty on the success of his endeavors and his having had a principal share in wiping away the foulest blot on the character of Christendom."

The Marquis of LONDONDERRY did not rise to offer any opposition to the motion of his honourable friend. Some expressions, perhaps, contained in the address, might be open to objection; but it was doubtless impossible, for a person who must feel so deeply interested in this momentous subject as his honourable friend was, not to express that interest with much warmth. The tone of the hon. gentleman's speech, and (he felt assured) of the discussion to which it was likely to give rise, were calculated to advance the best interests of a course of which he was so able an advocate. He (Lord Londonderry) certainly concurred in very many of the remarks made by his hon. friend. With the utmost deference to the principles that had influenced the French and American Governments on this subject, he (Lord Londonderry) was disposed to consider as most expedient and equitable a fair modification of the right of search, as to make the whole exertions of different states confederate for the purpose of supporting the slave-trade. He went also with the hon. member for Bramber, in thinking that some common measure between these states was absolutely essential to the purpose. While America or France hesitated to go forward in the same course with Great Britain, it was impossible that the Governments of the Netherlands, of Portugal, and Spain, or their servants rather, should not be chilled in this cause; seeing that two such powerful kingdoms, were not prepared to make similar exertions. He did, however, think, that these powers, when they should find that the principle now contended for was not likely to lead to the injury or inconvenience which they had anticipated, would lend themselves to aid the government in carrying it into execution. It was in vain for Parliament to conceal from themselves that all their exertions for the suppression of the slave-trade must be nugatory, while America and France were restricted from joining in them—not as much, perhaps, from motives of national prejudice as from the peculiar nature of their legislative constitution. America had, perhaps, the greater advantages for effectually acting in such a case as this; but from France he received repeated assurances that the government were extremely friendly to the principle of abolition, and that the alarming extent to which the illicit slave trade was carried on upon the coast of Africa by French agents and for French interests, had excited in that government the strongest feelings of abhorrence. The noble lord sat down, after recommending the house to preserve the utmost possible temper and moderation in the discussion of a subject so delicate and so important.

Sir JAMES MACINTOSH was willing to admit that his Majesty's Government had, for years, been extremely zealous in their endeavours

to put an end to the traffic in slaves; but he must also observe, that at one time, when the power was in their hands, they had lost the most favourable opportunity that had ever occurred for effecting that desirable object. Since the year 1814, he had no reason to make any charge against the noble lord or his colleagues for betraying any want of anxiety or zeal to abrogate the slave trade. He did not blame the noble lord for the tone he had assumed on this occasion. The adoption of that tone of forbearance was perfectly compatible with the situation which he held; but how far it was the duty of the House of Commons of England to speak in the same terms of mildness with respect to the conduct of foreign states who pursued this trade, was quite a different question. (hear.) He, however, would not wantonly depart from that temper and decorum which the noble lord had observed; he would adhere to it as far as the circumstances of the case permitted. He would add, that if the case related only to foreign states not having had recourse to a more efficient policy for the purpose of doing away the slave-trade than they had resorted to, he should have thought it his duty to abstain from any language, but that of respectful conciliation towards the persons at the head of the Government of those states. But if he came to a breach of foreign treaties, if he came to a violation of public faith, he could not speak respectfully of those who had entered into those treaties, who had declared that they agreed to them because they were consonant with the principles of religion and humanity, and who, notwithstanding their declarations, continued to use their best efforts for the promotion of the slave-trade. (hear, hear.) He could not call such conduct by any other name but that of hypocrisy. (hear.) Those who were guilty of it stood convicted in the face of the world, as enemies to every feeling of humanity, as foes to every idea of probity. (hear, hear.) Representations and statements to the Governments of Europe, on this subject, appeared to be useless. They were calls to efforts of that description, and the only hope remaining was, the appeal that might be made through that house to civilized man. (hear, hear.) Though those governments seemed at present to be placed beyond all reach of human justice, yet it was impossible but they must feel the deep execration of mankind which an exposure of their conduct must inevitably draw down upon them. The Governments of Europe might be divided into different classes. That of Portugal stood alone. From the beginning it stood firm in an obstinate defiance of the judgment of Europe—in an obstinate defiance of the professions and declarations of sovereigns—in an obstinate defiance of humane and enlightened statesmen; still it stood firm the unshaking friend of the slave trade. (hear.) True, indeed, it did sell to this country its license for robbery and murder on the west coast of Africa, on the north side of the Line; but sorry he was to say it had not religiously observed its bargain. (hear.) Portugal had passed through different forms of Government; but with respect to the slave trade its feelings remained unaltered; and as it had made monarchy execrable in the first instance by its adherence to that traffic, so now to make atonement to monarchy it brought disgrace on popular Government by nurturing the same principles. (hear.) He should say nothing of the Cortes of Spain, who had met the subject fairly. They had done justice to it, and had shown that nothing was wanting after a good law was framed, but a vigorous execution of it. Neither had he any thing to say against the United States of America. He was sure their good sense would perceive that there was no shadow of similitude between the right of search which was called for with respect to slave ships, and that which had been claimed in a period of war, and to which she and other maritime nations most naturally objected. The United States of America had made severe laws against this trade—they had made it a capital offence to carry it on—they had manifested the strongest feeling to enforce both the old and the new laws on the subject. But with respect to the Government of France, what was its past conduct with respect to this trade, and what were the hopes entertained now, that it would hereafter be better? Of all other proofs of the disposition of France on this subject, he would refer to the speech of his noble friend the Duke de Broglie, as giving the best and clearest idea of it. He had brought the question before the legislature of France; he left them no excuse for acting as they had done. He introduced to them the cases of the *Rouste*, and of the *Jesse Estelle*, the horrors of which would be transmitted from age to age, and which, by a singular fatality, appeared to comprise in themselves an epitome of all the wretchedness and misery that were spread over the whole system of the slave trade. One would have thought that the scenes his noble friend had described were sufficient to have aroused the latent feelings of the French nation, but they produced no such effect as to exclude all hope that laws of a severe and efficient kind would be directed against the slave trade—it proved to him that neither policy would be pursued but that of conniving at the traffic in slaves now, with the hope, perhaps, of ultimately, restoring it in all its disgusting horrors. (hear, hear.) That was the government which boasted of its zeal for the Christian religion—of its love of legitimate government. But, in acting such a part, where was its regard for the plighted honour of kings? Where was its reverence for the faith it had pledged to individuals and to nations? It professed hatred of the slave trade, but when the test was demanded, baseness, falsehood, and hypocrisy, were found to have usurped the place of truth. (hear.) What

course did the French Government pursue, when the subject was emphatically introduced to its notice? His friend, the Duke of Broglie, brought it forward, and he was reprimanded by the minister of finance for referring to the treaties of 1814 and 1815, because they were anti-national—because they were ratified under unfortunate auspices! The minister of finance charged him with not being a Frenchman, because he was not a supporter of the slave trade! The minister of finance declared that he was not a friend to his country, because he contended that her flag ought not to cover robbery and murder! The minister of finance reprobated his policy, because he was the advocate of humanity and justice—because he defended those principles which it was the greatest and best interest of every country to defend. (hear.) But what were they to think of treaties? *Enderix fidesque!* In the treaty with France it was stated, that his most Christian Majesty "recognised the principles on which his Britannic Majesty wished to put an end to the slave trade—principles that were in unison with justice, and were worthy of the feelings of an enlightened nation." A noble friend of his, (Lord Grenville)—for whom, though he differed from him in political opinions, he entertained that sincere respect to which his abilities and virtues justly entitled him—had observed, that this was an extraordinary preamble to a treaty, which would have the effect of putting off the abolition of the slave trade for five years. His noble friend very truly observed, that the preamble declared, "We, the contracting parties, see that this trade is opposed to justice and humanity; and yet we think it necessary to continue it for five years longer." (hear, hear.) The French Government was competent to continue the slave trade, if it pleased. By their deeds they had identified the Bourbon family with it; by their deeds they had bound up legitimacy, as attached to the same cause. (hear, hear) So far as those feelings had been manifested in France, he saw no reason to hope for any amelioration of the system, except through those powerful appeals that might yet be made through that house to this country and to all Europe; appeals that might force that Government to pursue those rules of justice and humanity which voluntarily, he was quite sure, it would never adopt. (hear, hear.) There was another government which demanded as much animadversion as that of France—he meant the government of Russia. At the congress of Vienna that government professed in its anathemas against the slave trade. Having no colonies, no trade, no ships, no commerce, it dealt liberally in execrations against those states which, having these, had engaged in the slave trade. And, in the plenitude of its generosity, it gave up a traffic in which it had no interest whatever. (hear, hear.) But was this disinterested honour consistent with the after conduct of Russia? He would show that it was not; and he would quote one particular instance as decisive of the fact. At Vienna the Russian Government concurred in the necessity of abolishing the slave trade, and declared that to bring those nations to their senses who carried on that traffic it would exclude their colonial produce from the Russian dominions. The colonial produce of Spain and Portugal was particularly aimed at and it was determined at, that that produce should not be received by Austria, Prussia, or Russia. Again he had to exclaim, where was the faith of treaties? Where was the sincerity of royal declarations? Where was the dependence on the royal word of a King, and the faith plighted in the face of nations? He would leave the house to judge. Four years afterwards, in the year 1819 or 1820, the Russian government adopted a new tariff, regulating the importation of foreign produce into the Russian empire; and, by some extraordinary fatality, they excluded the produce of all those powers that had abolished the slave trade, and gave the monopoly of their market to those who had obstinately refused to give it up. (hear, hear.) This was too true—it was a truth that ought to be known to all the world—it was a truth that ought to be handed down to the latest posterity! (hear, hear.) They had given to Cuba and the Brazils the monopoly of the market in sugar—in other words, they had given a premium for the support and extension of the slave trade! (hear, hear.) They had given a reward to those colonies which had carried the trade to its most disgraceful excess, they had given their market exclusively to those accursed territories, which during the last few years had swallowed such a deluge of African blood! (hear, hear.) Those who had solemnly stipulated to put an end to this odious trade, had broken every oath, and laughed at every promise. Yet those were the persons who had set on foot "the Holy Alliance," the professed object of which was to enforce the performance of the duties of Christianity! And what had followed from their union? Insincere declarations, breaches of faith, the practice of falsehood, the encouragement of barbarity, and the perpetration of cruelty and murder! These were the fruits of Christian systems which had been advanced and supported by the advisers of the Emperor of Russia. (hear, hear.) So long as he had life so long he had power to combat under the banner of that venerable leader who had so often fought the battles of the oppressed African race, so long would he raise his feeble voice against the continuance of so infamous a traffic; and though his efforts at this moment might be unavailing, he cherished the ardent hope, that ere long, the whole civilized world would unite in re-enacting the sentiment. (hear, hear.)

Mr. MARRYAT adverted briefly to the state of the French and Spanish colonies; and argued that the exertions making in those colonies ought to be viewed as affording the best possible reason for relieving the British planter, as far as possible, at the expense of the foreign planter, who was at present living at his cost, and carrying on trade to his detriment.

Dr. LUSHINGTON wished to call the attention of the house to the conduct pursued by Portugal, in reference to the slave trade. About two years and a half ago a Portuguese vessel, in the slave trade was taken by the PHASANT, and a midshipman and four British seamen, together with four blacks, were put on board of her. The Portuguese mate and boatswain were suffered to remain in the vessel. These wretches seized a favourable opportunity, and murdered the five Englishmen and two of the blacks. They then proceeded to the coast of Brazil, where the vessel was scuttled, and her cargo put on board another ship. The circumstances were however, discovered by one of the blacks who had been put on board by the Captain of the PHASANT, but no redress was obtained. To prove still more decided that the traffic was protected by the Portuguese, he would read an extract of a letter from Sir R. Mendes, dated "IPHSENIA, Sierra Leone, March 8, 1822." In that letter, Sir R. Mendes said—"On my return here from the Gambia, I sent the boats two days sail ahead to examine the Bissau river, after an absence of 14 days, they returned, or rather re-joined me with a Portuguese, having on board 170 slaves, taken under a Portuguese fort; the governor himself a party concerned. She had eight 12 pounder carronades, and a long 18-pounder on a pivot, mounted, and 36 men, with a great quantity of small arms and ammunition. She was boarded in the night; in the day time it would have been a difficult thing. Her captain, an outlaw, desperate and well trained, happened to be on shore at the time." Speaking of the French slave trade, Sir R. Mendes thus expresses himself:—"The slave trade continued under the French flag in full vigour. They sent 89 sail of vessels, last year, away from the river Bonny alone. Many of these ships are well armed and manned, and more it seems are to come; so that we shall have something to do by and by. In boarding the one we have taken, one of her men was killed, and five wounded, as she fired at the boats. Stocks received a blow on the head which did him no harm, and two of the seamen got thumps." In the fourth article of the treaty of 1815, the high contracting parties take upon themselves to settle the time when the slave trade should cease, and declared that they were ready to adopt means for putting an end to it. Now, it appeared, from what he had read, that no efficient means had been resorted to; and he would protest against a shilling being paid to those who had promised to abolish the trade, for any loss they might be supposed to sustain, in consequence of the abolition, until the trade was actually done away. This country was now paying to these parties nearly a million of money, and in return for it they only got disgrace and degradation. He was now addressing a house in which no advocate of slavery dared to raise his voice, and he hoped that the house would take effectual means to prevent the perpetration of such foul enormities.

Mr. BERNAL said, that letters which had been received in this country from Mr. Jamieson, proved that the slave trade was increasing to a very great extent in the island of Cuba. Of 46 slave vessels sent to the Havannah and minor ports, not one had been seized. No blame, however, attached to our ships of war, because the coast of the island of Cuba took in an extent of near 2,000 miles, and was destitute of cruising grounds. He saw very little use in giving 10,000l. or 10,000l. a year to commissioners, who were stationed at Surinam, Sierra Leone, and other places. If this country continued to pay them, they ought to be armed with much stronger power. He was anxious to use moderate and conciliatory language towards foreign powers; but he did not understand the policy of giving 400,000l. or 500,000l. to potentates, for the purpose of procuring their signatures to treaties, the terms of which they had afterwards neglected to fulfil. The island of Cuba, he understood, contained 14,000,000 of acres, of which 3,000,000 only were in occupation. The house, then, might easily conceive what an extensive field was there opened for the encouragement of the slave trade.

Mr. BARHAM was apprehensive that the frequent interferences of the house on this subject would produce more harm than good. The slave trade, he believed, would never be abandoned by France, Spain, Portugal, and Holland, so long as they could possibly carry it on; and he was afraid that all the efforts of this country would only tend to drive it out of the hands of those who might be disposed to pursue it with as much moderation as possible, and to place it under the control of more desperate and abandoned characters.

The Marquis of LONDONDERRY explained. In justice to Spain he would admit that it had sent the most positive orders for the execution of its intentions for the abolition of the slave trade. But he thought that the hon. and learned gentleman (Sir J. Morintosh) was not warranted in all his charges against France and Russia, and ought not in hasty to have made the charge if he would strengthen the efforts of the hon. and learned gentleman to widen the government of Russia in general politics.

would not have spoken so severely of its proceedings respecting the slave trade.

Mr. W. SMITH contended, that it was most absurd to say that they ought not in that house to point out and reprobate the absence of all sincerity in the conduct of France. Of hundreds of ships sent from their coast in this traffic, where was the one taken? (hear.)

The address was then agreed to.

Mr. GOULBURN postponed his motion for the renewal of the insurrection act to Tuesday next.

DISTRESS IN IRELAND.

Sir J. NEWPORT wished to call the attention of the house, and especially of his Majesty's ministers, to the extreme distress now suffered in Ireland. By communications made to him this day, he learnt that 15 persons in one parish perished by famine (hear, hear); that 28 persons were approaching to the same end; and that 120 persons were ill of a fever occasioned by the same cause. (hear, hear.) Under these appalling circumstances, he hoped the house would not separate, and that such statements would not go forth to the public without an intimation of what ministers meant to do in order to arrest a calamity so dreadful. The accounts were terrific and alarming. In a whole district, what could be collected of food was only sufficient for two days; and many had received extremeunction, and prepared for death. (hear.)

Mr. GOULBURN said that he, perhaps, felt this case more severely than any member in that house, because, with every exertion to relieve the calamity, he knew that it was not in the power of man to remove it. He had received this day information confirmatory of all that the right honourable gentleman had stated, especially in that country of Galway. Ship-biscuit had been sent, as possessing a greater degree of nutriment, and affording a greater facility for conveyance than any other food. Another shipment had been ordered of the same food. The Lord-Lieutenant had, by the vote of that house, received 100,000l. for the employment of the poor. But where no employment could be given, the money was expended in relief. The engineer in Galway had power to act on his own responsibility.

Mr. V. FITZGERALD could support every part of the right hon. baronet's statement. He had received a letter from a clergyman whose exertions were above all praise. In the letter the clergyman said—"I received the donation, and I lost no time in proceeding to give out oatmeal. But there being no iron gate, my aged debility could not bear the eager press of the famished crowd, especially as it lasted for 14 hours. I got into a boat, and thence wrote tickets. But such were their sufferings, that those who were strong enough buffeted the waves and carried back the tickets in their mouths in order to relieve their families." (hear, hear.) He hoped the right hon. baronet would be as successful as his intentions. The means in the hands of Government were not sufficient. It would be two months yet before they could have relief from the country itself. He could not sit down without expressing his gratitude that orders had been sent from the Treasury not to collect the taxes from persons so distressed.

Mr. WILBERFORCE rose only to say that relief was a duty. They might call it generosity, but it was a duty. If in a vessel where they were short of corn, one had more than others and distributed it, that was not charity, but justice. To relieve the distress in Ireland was a common duty in an emergency like this.

Mr. H. SUMNER felt in unison with the hon. gent. who spoke last. The country ought to be relieved at any expense. The only way was to address his Majesty to relieve the distress at any expense. (hear.)

Mr. BROUGHAM rose to add his testimony to his honourable friends, that in furnishing relief, if relief they could furnish, it was not generosity nor charity they performed, but their strict bounden duty; and that in receiving it, the distressed were to regard it, not as charity, but as their perfect right.

Mr. PEEL said, that he had never said that 100,000l. was all that would be required. (hear, hear.) He thought, however, that 100,000l. at one time, and 100,000l. at another, were better than 200,000l. at once.

Mr. NOLAN postponed his motion on the poor laws to the 19th of July.

Mr. LENNARD postponed his motion on the six acts to the 17th of July.

The other orders were disposed of, and the house adjourned at 12 o'clock.

DEATHS.

On the 9th of June, at Islington, Captain John Cleland, R. N., aged 83.

On the 13th of June, of an affection of the heart, Mrs. Drax Grosvenor, widow of the late Richard Eric Drax Grosvenor, Esq. of Charboroughpark, Dorsetshire.

On the 15th of June, Mr. George Oliver, senior, Blackheath-hill, aged 84.

Temperance.

Now hear what blessings Temperance can bring;
Thus said our friend, and what he said, I sing:—
First, Health: the stomach (cram'd from every dish,
A tomb of boil'd and roast, and flesh and fish,
Where bile and wind and phlegm and acid jar,
And all the man is one intestine war).
Remembers oft the school-boy's simple fare,
The temperate sleep, and spirits light as fair.—Pope.

"Si Je Perds, Je Suis Perdu."

(For the Cork Mercantile Chronicle.)

Shine on, thou bright beacon,
Uncloined and free,
From thy high place of calmness,
O'er Life's troubled sea;
Its morning of promise,
Its smooth seas are gone,
And the billows rave wildly—
Then, bright one, shine on.

The wings of the tempest
May rash o'er thy ray,
But tranquill then smilest,
Undimm'd by life's sway:
High, high o'er the worlds
Where storms are unknown,
Thou dwellest, all beauteous,
All glorious, alone.

From the deep womb of darkness
The lightning-flash leaps,
O'er the bark of my fortune,
Each mad billow sweeps;
From the port of her safety
By warring winds driven,
And no light o'er her course
But you lone one of heaven.

Yet fear not, then frail one,
The hour may be near,
When one own sunny headlands
Far off shall appear;
When the voice of the storm
Shall be silent and past,
In some Island of Heaven
We may anchor at last.

But, bark of Eternity,
Where art thou now?
The tempest-wave shrieks
O'er each plunge of thy prow
On the world's dreary ocean
Thus shattered and tot—
Then, lone one, shine on,
If I lose thee, I'm lost.

Cork, March 11, 1822.

J. J. C.

* These lines were suggested by an Impress on a Seal, representing a boat at sea, and a man at the helm looking up at a star; with the motto, *Si je perds, je suis perdu.*

A Tyrant's Court.—"That Officers of the Privy Chamber shall be loving together, keeping secret every thing said or done; leaving hearing or enquiring where the King is or goes, be it early or late; without grudging, mumbling, or talking of the King's pastime, late or early going to bed, or any other matter.—That the six Gentlemen of the Privy Chamber shall have a vigilant and reverend eye and respect to his Grace (the King) so that by his look or countenance they may know what he lacketh, or what is his pleasure to be had or done."—Henry VIII's Statutes Elizam.

Seditions Interlude.—In the year 1537, a Christmas Interlude was performed at Gray's-inn, of which the argument was, the Lord Governor was ruled by *Lady Dissipation* and *Lady Negligence*; by whose misrule *Lady Public Wealth* was put from Government, which caused *Rumor Populi* to rise *en masse* to expel Negligence and restore Public Wealth to her Castle.—This piece was greatly applauded; but the Author was seized by order of the Government of Henry VIII, and committed to prison; which of course proved that the satirist was in the wrong!

ASIATIC DEPARTMENT.

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Singapore Intelligencer.

NAGPORE, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1822.

Prevailing Disease.—Although it does not, strictly speaking, fall within the province of our Editorial duty to notice subjects relating to Physical or Medical Science, notwithstanding the extreme importance which necessarily results from Topographical enquiry as far as regards information on the causes of endemic sicknesses be sufficiently evident.

Our Medical Correspondents observe, that on the appearance of any alarming sickness, men have been dilatory and backward in investigating into the causes of the incursion of these direful maladies, until some lapse of time, whereby death after death has taken place, and all put down to the Indian's doctrine of its being a miraculous dispensation of Providence, and Science and Research have been allowed to sink into oblivion. We do not approve of the cavillings which have appeared among Medical Men in our Indian Prints, regarding Medical Institutions, fitting them as respectable members of the Profession and doubting their Rank among Medical Practitioners which the Law has acknowledged and sanctioned. We do not think it praiseworthy when so many other subjects are neglected and open for discussion, on points of the utmost importance to mankind. We should imagine that it would be of little consequence to the world what school a Medical Man was educated at, if he displayed in his practice ability and zeal. We feel proud in offering this opinion, as it emanates from a Medical Correspondent educated in England. We share in our Correspondent's surprise that out of the number of Medical Men in Calcutta not one has been found with that *Esprit de Corps* to form a Periodical Publication for the reception of Medical Communications on the Practice of Medicine and Surgery in India, and we agree with him that such an undertaking could not be expected from Regimental Surgeons, Gentlemen continually moving without means, and whose allowances are too narrowed for the collection of the necessary information required, otherwise we feel convinced many men of talent and ability would have appeared before the Public long before the present period. We never will believe that there has been an apathy and indolence in the Medical Department in the Upper Provinces; let us take a retrospective view to the period of the rage of the late Epidemic, and it must be confessed that more energy, talent, and anxiety, could not have been evinced in any department in the world, for the destruction and investigation into the causes and cure of that alarming Pestilence. Had the reports furnished to the Medical Board in Calcutta been published separately, as they were at Bombay, this assertion would have been fully substantiated. We observe Papers from Medical Men of this country continually appearing in England. We observe in one of the last Periodical Medical Publications at Edinburgh, a Medical Gentleman of this Establishment, complaining of the want of a vehicle of communication here, which must certainly excite considerable surprise among the Editors of these works at home. We have thus far strayed from our notice; but it will in some measure account for our touching on the prevailing Diseases in this part of India. We were informed that the station of Kamptee, now occupied by the Nagpore Subsidiary Force, would be found unhealthy on account of a deadly wind which blows from Raonih, in a North West direction, and which was the principal cause of the Fever, which prevailed at Nagpore in 1819 and 20, and that the unhealthy months would be found to be September and October.

September, October, and 22 days in November have now passed, and two deaths have occurred at Kamptee, out of nearly eighty Officers, and it occurs that one of these Gentlemen contracted his illness at Nagpore, the other had just come off a monthly tour of duty, and was attacked immediately after his arrival at Kamptee, so that neither of these cases can be considered endemic to this station during the months alluded to. At Nagpore, several other Gentlemen were attacked during these

months with severe Fever, which was ascribable to their residence in low swampy spots. Water from the surface at Nagpore is to be obtained within ten feet; at Kamptee even during the rains it is difficult to obtain it within 30 and 36, a convincing proof of the dryness of the latter soil. Great mortality took place in His Majesty's 24th Foot, from violent attacks of Fever at Nagpore, which is evidence sufficient that one climate is superior to the other.

The prevailing winds have been Westerly and from the South-west, and latterly from the North-west, the Ramteek direction, so that this is proof positive that these *longifoliate* trees are resined with impunity. We do not deny, however, that several slight attacks of Fever did take place among the Officers at Kamptee, and we were only astonished that they were so slight and so few, when it is to be remembered, that Kamptee is a new Cantonment, and that there were no roads by which Officers were able to take their regular morning's and evening's ride, and that they were in consequence pent up in their Bungalows, and as we know exercise in most conducive to health, it is remarkable there has been so little sickness there. Our Correspondent terms the Nagpore Fever, the Quotidian Intermittent, and he does not approve of Bleeding and Calomel, so as to excite Ptyalism as it is proved to be unsuccessful, but he recommends the established system of treatment of a hundred years standing, viz. Calomel as purgative only, with continued and large doses of Bark: this never fails to effect a speedy recovery. Our Correspondent adds, however, that this treatment would not succeed in the Remittent Fever.

Differences between the Prices of Wines, Provisions, &c. at Nagpore and the Company's Provinces.

Military Stations in the Provinces. At Nagpore.

	Rs. As.	Rs. As.
Beer,	12 0	16 0
Madeira,	20 0	26 0
Brandy,	16 0	20 0
Sheep, per corse	16 0	46 0
Turkeys, each	5 0	6 0
Ducks, per corse	14 0	26 0
Powls, per six	1 0	2 8
Kids, per four	1 0	4 0
Total, . . .	86 0	Total, . . . 173 8

The articles purchased at Nagpore, are paid in the Current Coin, the Batta on which is 10-4, which, however still leaves the price of Provisions nearly double.

To our Correspondents.—Some men are doomed to travel, and very frequently at the sacrifice of health and fortune. We have to communicate to our Correspondents, that we are about to leave this in search of the former. Although we leave our Post here in the capacity of Editor, we shall hope that a more able hand will soon fill it with more ability. It is gratifying to us, however, that we do not, nor ever have sacrificed our principles, but have glided along the stream without having had to stem against shoals and currents, nor have we like the Brahmany BULL OF THE EAST been worried out of the field by an all-powerful English Bull-Dog. We have boasted an independent principle, which in the end we are convinced must weigh down even combined talents and wealth, for while it is the support of the former, it sometimes brings to itself the reward of the latter. We believe we have been associated with the Radicals, because we fearlessly asserted what we thought. We are proud of the designation, if it arises from our having radically supported truth, and having corrected mistakes and unfounded detractions. We have never traduced private nor disrespectfully spoken of public characters, nor ever made an assertion which was not faithful and indisputable; what has been the result? We have had no one to contend with, and we hold that these are the true and will ever be the honest principles of the independent Whig, the admirers of a Free Press, and the staunch supporters of the birth-right of free-born men. Such are our principles indelibly stamped upon our hearts and souls, and not to be

effected, but by the hand of death, the end of a journey through a life which may be blighted or captivated by sickness, and repressed by the frowns of Fortune, but will still glide through its existence to the grave with the cheerfulness of conscious rectitude of having done our duty towards all men.

Gentleman.—We have so many Bachelors here, without any Fair Spinster, that these unhappy swains gave a Bachelor's Ball, with a view, we very much suspect, of alluring some of the lovely Damsels to this distant spot. Their gallantry on this occasion was bestowed on their married friends, although invitations were sent to their brother bachelors of Tackla and Hinghee. We observed, however, two distinguished individuals associated in the list of the married, so that we began to suspect (as our ancient Dames would say, we began to surmise) they were about to leave the groups of the unhappy, for the envied enjoyment of domestic bliss. We have, however, been undeceived on this point, and we therefore relieve the conjectures of the lovers of table talk, by assuring them that the Bachelors of Tackla and Hinghee must have been similarly situated, so that it would appear incredible, as long a list of Candidates for the Holy bond could anticipate even a probable accomplishment of their wishes, since so few Fair commiserating Spinster visit this remote spot from the grand scenes of enjoyment, amid the circles of the fashionable gay in Calcutta. The amusements of the evening passed in delight, and the elegance of the supper did infinite credit to the exertions of the worthy Stewards.

Leopard Hunting.—Large parties of Officers assembled the other morning, to witness a very interesting and novel amusement of leopard hunting. We believe these animals belong principally to this part of India. They differ from the common Leopard in their shape, and by possessing uncommon speed in the chase, and are distinguished by their resemblance to the canine species, their legs are peculiarly long, with claws like those of the dog, the chest is deep, and the loins inclined to curve similar to the greyhounds. They are conveyed in carts, secured by a common zone, the chase is directed after deer only, and they are so trained, that they generally pursue the largest buck of the flock for their prey. It is remarkable that these animals are obedient to their keepers, we observed on one occasion, they attended instantly on being called in to give up the pursuit. On arriving within one to two hundred yards of a flock of deer, the animal evinces the greatest impatience, the eye fixed upon the object is strained with the utmost keenness and anxiety, when they are slipped, the fleetness of the animal astonishes the looker-on, and although the speed of the deer appears to be to the utmost of the animal's power, the rapidity of the leopard gains on every spring on the object of pursuit and is soon overtaken. These animals belong to the Rajah of Nacpore, and we are informed this is one of the favorite amusements of the Native Princes in this part of India.

Drama.—We have never on any occasion been so highly gratified, as we were the other evening in witnessing the performance of LOVE LAW and PHYSIC, TOO LATE FOR DINNER, and BOMBASTUS FURIOSO. The whole of these Farces were ably got up and unexceptionably the best performed of any we have seen here.

Every character was ably sustained, though some were superior, if we notice these only we do not wish to take from the merits of others. The Authors of these Farces have thrown the whole of the humour and opening for good acting in three or four characters, the others are of a very minor stamp and so arranged as merely to carry on the plot and story of these Pieces, without giving any opportunity of enabling gentlemen who assume them of displaying those abilities to excite what must be the performer's object—the interest of the audience. Lubin Log was therefore excellent, and the same gentleman's performance of Turmet and Bombastes were superior to any thing we have seen. Doctor Campion, Mrs. Thompson and Fusbos, though such different characters, could not have been more faithfully assumed, and this favorite Amateur received frequent testimony from the audience of the delight he afforded. Andrew, Letty,

and Artaxomipous in the hands of another favorite could not have been surpassed.

Frederick Poppleton and Flexible were also ably supported. Frank Poppleton displayed a perfect knowledge of his part, and the character of Twill was superior to any thing we have seen this gentleman perform before. Bob Rafter supported the character of the Countryman with humour and effect, while Mrs. Hillany Emma Somerton Dustifus. Pincroft and Danvers, though among the minor parts in the Dramatic Personae, exerted themselves to make their characters interesting, and effected their object in displaying them to the utmost ability could portray.

We regret to mention that it was the last appearance of two Amateurs, who are about to leave the station, the more so as one of these Gentlemen had filled the situation of Manager to this little Theatre. On the close of this Evening's performance they came forward and spoke the following

FAREWELL ADDRESS.

Enter Fusbos and Manager speaking.

MANAGER.

Tis not enough gratitude repays
For favors past, and for happy days.
Let us express the genuine source
Of pleasure, in our Theatric course,
And tell the worthy people here,
Our gratitude is most sincere.

Fusbos.

Oh then upon my word its true,
We are indebted much to you,
Our inadvertencies in youth
Overlooked by goodness and by truth,
Then hang me if I will forego
To weep, and sigh, and tell my woe,
And my real gratitude to prove
To those there Ladies, I do love,
Let so many appear to night,
And tears now, so confuse my sight,
To speak, I feel it is all my eye,
So, oh, Manager, why you must try.

Retires up the Stage.

MANAGER.

May you ere long travel the cheering way,
And with gladdening hearts as light as gay,
Soon, to fair Albion's shores returning home
From India's scenes, used so long to roam.
May you such joy soon be doomed to know,
And your tide of happiness ceaseless flow.
While we were with you we strove our powers
To cheat old time and to beguile its hours,
But yet our great, and still our anxious care
Was to please our friends, and the gentle fair,
We tried our utmost for the great reward
The fair one's plaudits, and the friends regard,
Failed in merit, failure did appear,
We met with favor, and indulgence here,
Vanity raised, vanity most true,
We were vain, dear friends, vain of pleasing you;
We leave you not for our dear native land
We boast not a pleasure so near at hand,
To wander still o'er India's dale and hill,
Our time of exile, is continued still,
But we leave this spot, where our colours wave,
Britons planted the bravest 'gainst the brave,
It's memorable Seatabuldin's height,
Where heroes tomba tell the glorious fight
Honour's recorded, o'er the Soldiers grave
Sotheby's too, who mingled with the brave,
Glorious spot! history will enlarge
The well fought battle, and Fitzgerald's charge

But now that peace reigns even from afar,
And every Soldier lolls from rampant war,
May you, brave friends, in mirthful mood obtain
Delight of soul in India's land again.
Your social souls with love and concord swell
Our anxious wish, in bidding you farewell.—Exit.
Fusnot.

Heigho! upon my soul he speaks most true;
He has left me here to say something too;
Tho' he has more brass in his ugly phiz,
My sentiments are just the same as his,
Lal! you laugh, and you laugh at me I fear;
Why now, why don't you drop a farewell tear?
But if you really laugh, when you should cry,
Why it is time for me to say good bye.

Gato's Essays.

No. VII.—WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1823.

The bell strikes one. We take no heed of time,
But from its loss. To give it, then, a tongue,
Is wise in man. As if an angel spoke.
I feel the solemn sound. If heard aright,
It is the knell of my departed hours;
Where are they? With the years beyond the flood.
It is a signal that demands despatch:
How much is to be done? My hopes and fears,
Start up, alarmed, and o'er life's narrow verge
Look down. On what? a fathomless abyss!
A dread eternity? how surely mine!

Such is the awful appeal of the poet, Young; and he who feels it not as if it were the bolt of heaven, must possess a mind of no enviable sensibility.

Doctor Johnson says that, a celebrated Italian philosopher declared, *Time is my estate*. Indeed, moralists of all ages and countries have used every power of language, to express its value.

After what has been written by these illustrious persons, it may be deemed presumption in me to deliver my sentiments. Young as I am, my study has been indefatigable, and my observation extensive; conscious, therefore, of ability to add something to the mass of human knowledge, and contribute something to the promotion of virtue and happiness, I come forward, and humbly solicit favour and attention.

May my seriousness not fright away curiosity, nor my strictures provoke resentment!

Every one is ready to allow that, to make a proper use of Life is of the highest importance, as well as the indispensable duty of rational beings. Occurrences around us constantly afford conviction of this great truth. Daily, the glorious orb of the sun performs its course, sinks in the western skies, and the wide world is involved in the glooms of night; one year passes over our heads, and is succeeded by another. The Beauty, who is the attraction of every eye, and the charm of every heart, gradually finds the hue of the rose deserting her cheeks, wrinkles appearing on her hilly skin, and her hair becoming silvery through age! The man of business toils late and early, and acquires a fortune; but at last discovers that time has brought infirmities along with it, and forbidden enjoyment in the vale of life. Even the philosopher, who stands as on an eminence, and profoundly contemplates on the race of man, and meditates its reformation, is conscious that while he is effecting his purposes, the strong arm of Time is bending him to the ground!

Of that which is thus generally acknowledged, by being generally felt, what is the cause of the plainly observable neglect? I am induced to believe, it is ignorance of what using time really signifies.

Some people perform the duties of their vocations, and imagine that the time which remains after doing this, may be thrown away, without blame being incurred. Others declare that possessing independent fortunes, it would be an absurdity, and an abuse of the favour of heaven, if they did not enjoy them; so, they spend days and nights in idle amusements, or in sinful debaucheries. Even the man of letters, how busy soever he may appear, often actually does nothing when absorbed in his study.

And, although every one frames excuses for himself, while he is killing time, yet there is 'a still small voice,' which is heard alike, amid the uproar at the luxurious board, in the pavilion of stotb, and on the hot bed of criminal pleasure; a voice, which whispers in the ear that every thing is not right, when even a single hour is suffered to fall uselessly to the ground.

Amusement is necessary as a relaxation; but when it becomes a business, nature and common-sense condemn it as sinful.

When men have suffered their lives to pass unimproved away, what is their condition in old age? The rake

"Still to his mistress lies on feeble knees,
And envies every sparrow that he sees!"

The idler disgusts all, by his impudent lounging habits. The debauchee is shunned by the virtuous, and pointed out by parents to their offspring, as an example of depravity, which ought to be avoided and hated! Even he who has laboured to improve mankind, shakes with fear at the thought of stepping into eternity, and of being weighed in the balance and found wanting! Such is the state of the vicious and indolent, while going down the hill of life!

What, (it may now be asked,) is it to use time? The question will be answered by what I shall adduce.

Among the Gymnosopists, a sect of Indian philosophers in ancient days, it was customary to hold a daily examination, and whoever had not acquired some knowledge, or done some good, was adjudged unworthy of food, and consequently refused admittance to the common banquet.—Pythagoras, who travelled from Greece to India, and adopted many of the doctrines then prevalent here, says, 'Before you lay your head on your pillow to sleep, consider thrice, the train of actions through the day; be grieved for the bad ones, and joyful for the good.' A monarch, on finding at the close of one day, that he had performed nothing beneficial to mankind, uttered to his friends the memorable expression, *I have lost a day!* Pliny, (I am not certain whether it was he, for, having no library, I always quote from memory,) used to take a book in his pocket, when he went a-hunting, in order that not a moment of his time might pass away unemployed. In modern times, King Alfred, Erasmus, Scaliger, Tasso, Pope, Chatterton and others afford striking instances of well improved time.

It is an excellent way to have a book, in which to note every thing remarkable, that may be read, heard or seen. I have done this since I was a school-boy; but, most of my best papers have been destroyed during my weary wanderings through the world.

I shall now come to a conclusion. On this day, when we behold joy in every countenance, and festivity all around us, let us pause a while, and think.—One year has passed into the awful abyss of ages, and we are now entering upon another! When we take a retrospective view, what scenes appear! and who knows what may be in the womb of futurity? Misfortunes may ruin us; our friends, our relatives, yes, we ourselves may be doomed to slumber in the awful *Solitude of Death!*—Is any conscious of having wasted his past life, let him make haste to redeem it: procrastination may occasion eternal ruin! Has any improved his time as he ought, let him implore the Almighty Disposer of all things, to enable him to be prepared before the night cometh, when no man can work!

LINES.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

The following elegant and harmonious Lines were written by a young Lady when only eleven years of age, and by giving them a place in the Poetical Corner of your valuable JOURNAL, you will much oblige,

Your obedient Servant,

Canton, Dec. 3, 1822.

ANTIMONY.

ZELIDA AND THE FADED ROSE BUSH WHICH GREW NEAR HER TOMB.

I gazed on the Rose bush, I heaved a sad sigh,
And mine eyelid was gemmed by a tear,
Oh! let me, cried I, by my Zelida lie,
For all that I value sleeps here.
Her sweetness, simplicity, virtue and charms,
Could with nought but a Seraph's compare,
Ah! now since my Zelida's torn from my arms,
There is nothing I love but despair.
This Rose tree once flourished and sweetened the air,
Like its blossoms all lovely she grew;
The sweets of her breath like its fragrance was rare,
And her cheeks were more fresh than its hue.
She planted, she loved it, she kissed its gay head,
And its bloom every rival defied,
But, alas! what was beauty or virtue soon fled,
In Spring they both blossomed and died.
And now for my bosom this life has no charms,
I feel all its trouble and care,
For since my dear Zelida's rent from my arms,
There is nothing I love but despair.

ON A BLIGHTED ROSE BUD.

Scarce had thy velvet lips imbibed the dew
And nature hailed thee infant queen of May,
Scarce saw thine opening bloom, the Sun's broad ray,
And to the air thy tender fragrance threw,
When the North-wind enamour'd of thee grew,
And by his cold rough kiss thy charms decay,
Now droops thine head, now fades thy blushing hue,
No more the queen of flowers, no longer gay.
So blooms a maid, her guardians health and joy,
Her mind arrayed in innocence's vest
When suddenly impatient to destroy,
Death clasps the virgin to his iron breast,
She fades, the parent, sister, friend deplore.
The charms, and budding virtues now no more.*

* The last six beautiful lines were inscribed on the young Lady's Tomb.

Mr. Mack's Lectures.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

I have read the accounts of Mr. Mack's Chemical Lecture, which appeared in the JOURNAL and BULL. The Editor of the latter seems to speak of it as the first attempt to introduce Lectures on Experimental Philosophy. It is not, however, a new thing to see Ladies and Gentlemen attending Lectures on scientific subjects. I believe the first attempt was made by Dr. Dinwiddie, who went out to China in the suite of Lord Macartney. He gave three sets of Lectures. The first consisting of 12 on Natural Philosophy were delivered in the evenings; and for the purpose of exhibiting some experiments, &c. which could not be done advantageously by candle light, he added a lecture in the daytime. The next two related to Ancient Fortification, and the last set of 12 were upon Chemistry. For the above purposes he enjoyed the advantage of being in possession of some of the instruments, &c. which had been sent to the Emperor of China. Dr. Dinwiddie's rooms were always full

of Ladies and Gentleman, and there were at least as many of the former as of the latter, if not more to the first two sets.

In addition to what you have said, allow me to mention that Mr. Mack has the use of the Apparatus belonging to the Serampore College. Among the articles which I believe are now, are an improved Mercurial Pneumatic Trough of iron for collecting Gases, with Davy's Spring-Hydrometer, and two Wollaston's Tables of Chemical Equivalents applied to a sliding rule, which makes it particularly useful in Laboratories.

The following are not common in Calcutta, viz. models of Crystals, and models to explain the manner in which Crystals are formed. The Professor used a piece of soap, for demonstrating the manner in which a knowledge is acquired of the primitive forms of Crystals, according to the method practised by Haüy and others, by mechanical cleavage. A Goniometer made like a proportional Compass for measuring the angles of Crystals with the assistance of a Protractor. Wollaston's Reflective Goniometer, which determines the angles by reflection with greater precision than any other instrument. Chemical Thermometers with turn up scale-boards—Nicholson's Gravimeter for ascertaining the specific gravities of bodies, Air-holders, &c.—Hooke's Spirit Blowpipe—and Newman's Blowpipe for Gases.

One of Mr. Mack's experiments, which was intended to shew the effect of air in Crystallisation failed; but we are not to suppose it was owing to want of practice. It is particularly mentioned in books of Chemistry, that "in consequence of an unfavorable state of the atmosphere, this experiment will sometimes fail," and Dr. Dinwiddie was almost always unsuccessful in his Electrical experiments owing to the great humidity of the air.

I agree in opinion with JOHN BULL, that the company was not well accommodated, and it is to be hoped, that at the next Lecture, Mr. Mack will adopt that arrangement of seats, which he originally intended, and which will enable a greater number of persons to have a good sight of the experiments. The Asiatic Society's room is by no means well adapted for lectures on experimental philosophy, but I cannot agree with JOHN BULL that the Theatre would answer better. In my humble opinion it would not answer at all in its present state, and to make any alterations in it would cost a large sum and defeat the principal object in using the Society's room which was to save expence.

I suspect that the persons whom you mention as being tired with the length of the lecture on Tuesday, were those in the last row, who being at too great a distance to see the experiments distinctly could not be so well entertained as those who were nearer, and perhaps they were not particularly fond of Chemistry, for those who are, would naturally wish that they should be lengthened, and I do not know how they can well be curtailed except the number be increased. So many discoveries and improvements have been made of late years, that lovers of Science would naturally wish to have a particular account of them, and I should be sorry to have it said people can sit 3 or 4 hours to see a dull Play, from which they receive no benefit, and be unwilling to devote a couple of hours for the purpose of obtaining valuable information.

When next Mr. Mack shall deliver a discourse, it is to be hoped that the Gentleman will have the politeness to leave the first row of seats for the accommodation of the Ladies, and in return for this compliment the latter will no doubt take care to arrive in proper time. Ladies may sometimes be accidentally too late at public places, but this could not have been the case at the last Play when every body expected a full house, and for which reason the Managers might have afforded a little more accommodation by having a row of benches next the walls, agreeably to the plan adopted in the Cathedral. The Theatre is not half large enough for any particular purpose, and it is to be regretted that it was not built more like the old Theatre with Galleries, &c.

So great was the anxiety of all ranks to be present on Friday, that had the Theatre been three times as large it would no doubt have been filled.

A. B.

ASIATIC DEPARTMENT.

-13-

Opium Sale.

Yesterday the Company's Sale of Opium was held at the Exchange, which drew together a large assemblage of persons, Purchasers as well as others, attracted by the general interest it excited. The Sale commenced at eleven, with the Patna Opium, of which there were 1078 Chests and half Chests, comprising Three Hundred and Thirty-six Lots. The Results were as follows :

	Rs.
Highest Price, Whole Chest,	3610
Lowest Ditto,	3010
Highest Price, Half Chest,	1680
Lowest Ditto,	1620
Average price per whole Chest,	3334

Banaras Opium.

Highest Price per Chest,	3325
Lowest ditto,	3210
Average price per Chest.	3218

Stud Department.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

Although CAROLUS, who writes in your Paper of the 26th October, has I conceive taken a very erroneous view of the System adopted by Government, in these Provinces, for the improvement of the breed of Horses, I do not think his speculations merited such reply as your Paper of the 16th ultimo under the modest Signature of AN EXPERIENCED OBSERVER. Made up of flat contradictions, and confident counter-assertions, I cannot find a single sentence, or allusion, in the letter of CAROLUS, to justify the assertion of AN EXPERIENCED OBSERVER, that it is written "with little other view, than to lessen the credit of one he has long had the honor of being acquainted with." Nor do I see how it was possible for CAROLUS, in offering his opinions on the System adopted in these Provinces, to allude to the Gentleman, that AN EXPERIENCED OBSERVER has long had the honor of being acquainted with, and one of the most zealous and indefatigable Officers of the Stud Department; for that Gentleman had no more to do either in suggesting the System established in these Provinces, or of carrying it into effect, than CAROLUS himself. It owes its origin entirely to an active, indefatigable Member of the Board of Superintendence, who first explored the breed of these Provinces, and made known the resources of the Country to Government. And upon whose accurate reports the present System was established, a System, purely Zumeendary, and which I will venture to predict, from long experience, and from the example of other Countries, —(the Dekun, Katiawar, the Pünjab &c.)—is the only System, under liberal encouragement, by which an extensive and independant source of supply, from an improved breed of Horses, can ever be produced. Nor was the Gentleman, who AN EXPERIENCED OBSERVER, "has long had the honor of being acquainted with," even in Hindostan, at the time the System was put in force.—It is hardly possible therefore that CAROLUS could have wished to allude to him.—It is I am sorry to observe, the unbecoming style of such a letter as the EXPERIENCED OBSERVER writes, that defeats the object of free enquiry, on subjects little understood, and which might otherwise elicit much useful information.

Murshidabad, Dec. 6, 1822.

USP PURWAR.

Deaths.

On the 28th ultimo, at the advanced age of 96 years, Mrs. DOMINGA D'ROARIO. She was the mother of three Children at the taking of this Presidency by Nabob Seeraja Dowlah, and the occurrence of the circumstances continued fresh in her mind within a few months of her death, when her mental powers were weakened and impaired by old age.

At the House of Mr. P. WATSON, in Durrumtollah, on the 23d ultimo, aged 48 years, Mrs. BAILEY, the Widow of the late Mr. ABRAHAM BAILEY, Indigo Planter at Dalasghur, in Jessore, having survived her husband only 3 months and 15 days.

Watering the Streets.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

I cannot avoid bringing to the notice of the Surveyor of the Roads, through the medium of your JOURNAL, a circumstance, which if once brought to his knowledge by this means, will readily meet his co-operation to see remedied; I mean the watering of the streets all along the Loll Diggy, which instead of being a public convenience, is converted by the Bhesters, to a public nuisance, from being watered *to an excess*, not to do work twice over, so as to make it muddy, to the no small annoyance of poor Pedestrians, who are obliged to *file* off to the other side of the Aqueduct, all along the sides of the Loll Diggy, opposite Gregg, Pengelly, and Co.

If the above evil cannot be remedied: it would be an improvement if the Aqueduct were raised a little, to prevent people walking over it, and some gravel or rather *scrub* laid on the other side of the Aqueduct, towards the sides of the Loll Diggy, and the place levelled, which would be a secure walk to those who go afoot; free from any annoyance of the Buggies and Chariots, and the above hardship.

A POOR PEDESTRIAN.

Spending the Sabbath.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

How greatly is to be deplored the manner in which Sundays are spent in most of the outstations in India, but more especially so where no Clergymen reside for the purpose of inculcating the inestimable benefits of religion, and instilling the doctrines of Christianity into the young and inexperienced minds of a large proportion of the British population, who come out to this country in the hey-day of youth, and too often either altogether neglect their sacred duties, or become Infidels, and Free-thinkers, lost to themselves and to others.

Some, for want of rational employment, must go out on a hunting excursion; others devote the Sabbath to shooting; even gentlemen of the highest classes talk of their merit in abstaining from the sports of the field during the week, that they may enjoy the relaxation of shooting on Sunday. Many worse, if possible, than these, make a practice of spending their day of rest at Hazard, Brag or Loo, sitting for hours at the Gaming Table, without devoting a thought to Him who made us, but pursuing their fascinating amusement, until on the very brink of ruin.

I am not Sir, either a Hypocrite or an Enthusiast, but this I do think, that a proper respect ought to be shown to the Sabbath day; if we get into a habit of regularly attending divine worship *once a week*, it must be conducive both to our eternal and temporal happiness; but unfortunately in this country, so few opportunities occur of doing so, that no one can feel much surprise at the consequences which result from having no one to guide or direct us.

On the other hand the "pomp and circumstance" of Church Service, certainly impress the minds of the hearers with a religious awe and feeling of devotion towards our Maker, which materially assist the preacher in his endeavours to convince his audience of the truths of revealed religion, and give a permanency and weight to his arguments; therefore, how much it is to be wished that our opportunities of receiving instruction should be increased as much as possible, in which case I venture to predict that the reformation in our habits would fully keep pace with the most sanguine expectations that might be formed by our spiritual guides.

I earnestly hope that some method will be adopted, for the more general dissemination of religious instruction, and should rejoice if some more able disputant than myself would take up his pen in such a cause.

AN OFFICER.

Address to Sir T. Brisbane.

Sydney Gazette, August 30, 1822.—In pursuance to our promise of last week, is inserted the Address that was presented to his Excellency Sir Thomas Brisbane on the 21st instant, and the Reply of His Excellency is subjoined.

To His Excellency Sir Thomas Brisbane, K. C. B. Captain General, Governor and Commander in Chief, &c. &c. &c.

We the undersigned Inhabitants, Landholders, Merchants and Free Colonists of New South Wales, beg most respectfully to lay before your Excellency, a humble Statement of the embarrassing and ruinous consequences which we have too much ground to fear will result from the system lately adopted by the Commissariat, in paying for the supplies required by Government, in Spanish dollars, and we are confident, your Excellency will give our respectful representations all the consideration the importance of the subject demands.

We respectfully represent to your Excellency, that as Landholders, Merchants, and Inhabitants of the Colony, our property is at one blow depreciated at least 20 per cent, and in addition to that undoubted loss, we are further embarrassed, by being compelled to receive in payment, for whatever produce is supplied to Government, a foreign coin of doubtful and fluctuating value, that hitherto all our transactions have been regulated by equivalents of sterling values and denomination; and all accounts kept, and contracts made, in that description of money, which is alone binding, and legal in the Mother Country; that payments made in dollars, necessarily require another mode of keeping accounts, and it will be impossible from the fluctuating value of that article, according to the demand for it, to regulate with any degree of precision, the sterling prices of articles which are to be paid for, in an equivalent of constantly fluctuating value.

We beg most respectfully to represent, that any attempt to substitute a foreign coin for a sterling payment, must be ineffectual in law, dollars not being a statutory coin of the realm, unless a fixed and certain degree of value be given them, by and per force of your Excellency's Proclamation, or British Legislative Enactment; that, dollars being the sole medium of payment, an enormous and ruinous loss (in addition to the fictitious value at present fixed on the dollar by the Commissary), will be an inevitable consequence of being obliged to remit in dollars, instead of a sterling equivalent.—We humbly represent, that, having no regular packets, or stated periods of communication with the Mother Country (to which all our remittances are ultimately made), we shall be unable to procure either safe freight, or to effect insurances on so valuable a property, as it must necessarily be uncertain by what ships, or what route, our remittances can be made.

We are confident Your Excellency must be aware, that a system of dollar payments will introduce every species of stockgambling into what ought to be a fair, and honorable money transaction; we can have no confidence, in the impartiality with which these dollars will be re-purchased, in the market for Government bills; we can have no security that these bills will be given to the lowest offer, or, that the specie will not be imported from other quarters, and probably bought up—a circumstance which must ultimately ruin, the holders of dollars, in the Colony; and, in their ruin, must be involved all the settlers who may have connections in business with them.

We entreat at your Excellency to consider the difficulties we may have to labour under, from the decisions of the several Courts of Law. Your Excellency must be aware that Courts will compel the fulfilment of agreements, and the payment of debts, in sterling money; we trust your Excellency will devise some means under existing circumstances, to relieve us from the pressure of loss, which most necessarily attend the decrees of Court. We do not ask Your Excellency to make a dollar a legal tender, because we are aware of the serious consequences of such a step; but, we respectfully ask your Excellency how it is to be determined what relative and fixed value the dollar, bears when tendered as an equivalent for sterling, and into what sterling subdivisions it is possible to divide a coin not of sterling denomination.

We are aware that, by Act of Parliament, the duties authorised to be collected in this Colony, are of course contemplated, to be in sterling money; and we owe it to your Excellency's indulgence that, without a sterling circulating medium, we are permitted to pay those sterling duties in dollars at 5s. value; and we do not fear but the same forbearance will prevent us from encountering any well-grounded cause of alarm, lest, at some future period, we may be called upon to pay the difference between what we have paid, and what we, by law, are bound to pay.

A rise in the price of necessaries will naturally induce a similar rise in the price of labour; and we respectfully submit to your Excellency, that it will be impossible, with our property and produce so greatly, and so suddenly lowered, to continue to give those wages to our convictservants, which, by the present Ordinances of Government, we are

compelled to do; we have no hesitation in stating to your Excellency that it will be impossible to continue to give any thing like such wages; and that, so far as respects the settler, the least serious of the consequences will be the return to Government of the greater number of convicts at present maintained by him.

Although we have only stated a few of the more obvious objections of the introduction of a currency other than sterling, yet we respectfully trust we have stated more than enough to induce your Excellency to give the important subject farther consideration, before your Excellency's sanction is finally given to the present measures of the Commissary.

Being entirely ignorant of the particular advantages that can possibly arise by the introduction of a depreciated medium of payment, we can only look upon it as a measure that (without reference to ulterior consequences) might promise to reduce the expenses of the Colony; we beg your Excellency to believe, that every measure of economy your Excellency may deem it advisable to adopt, will be most cheerfully seconded and supported by us; but, in consideration of the vital interest of this Colony, involved, as we are convinced it is, in your final determination, we implore Your Excellency to consider, whether other and more efficient means, to obtain those desirable objects, may not be resorted to, rather than afford a nominal and fictitious relief to the Mother Country, by substituting a depreciated currency for a sterling one.

We most respectfully entreat and hope, that your Excellency will, after a full consideration of the statement thus submitted, give such directions for the future guidance of the Commissariat Department as will relieve us from the serious loss we have already experienced, and the difficulties in account and general transaction we at present labour under. We most respectfully beg leave to entertain the hope, that arrangements may be made which will prevent any loss accruing to the Government by owing in future for all supplies required by the Commissariat in store receipts, to be consolidated as formerly. In order to lead to a result so anxiously contemplated by us, we most respectfully trust your Excellency will, on mature consideration, be pleased to give instructions to the Deputy Commissary General not to purchase, or receive, any more Spanish dollars; but that after all those at present in his charge shall have been issued to the Public in payment of supplies required by the crown, a recurrence may be had to the mode of payment to which we have thus ventured to advert.

We trust your Excellency will believe, that in thus submitting our sentiments to your Excellency's liberal consideration, we do it under the full conviction that you will be governed by the desire and intention to do justice, and extend protection and support both to the interests of the Mother Country and the Colonists; and we throw ourselves upon your Excellency's wisdom and liberality to relieve us from the distress and ruin with which we are threatened, assuring Your Excellency, that such a mark of beneficent attention to our wishes, and interests, will be most thankfully received, and ever gratefully acknowledged.

New South Wales.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN,

I shall not, I trust, be found to disappoint the conviction you have been pleased this moment to express, that, in the decision I am now on the point of declaring, "I will be governed by the desire and intention to do justice, and to extend protection and support, both to the interests of the Mother Country and the Colonists." Directed, Gentlemen, by this conciliating observation to advert to the welfare of the parent State, I cannot but consider as highly advantageous to the interests of Great Britain, the late purchases of Spanish dollars made by the Commissariat; and had I, as commissioned Protector of those interests, permitted the Commissary to follow any other course than that which he is now pursuing, such permission would in my opinion, have been perfectly unjustifiable. In another part of your Address you beg me to believe, that every measure of economy I may deem it advisable to adopt, will be most cheerfully seconded and supported by you; but, Gentlemen, I am bold to assert, that no measures of economy can be other than illusory plans of retrenchment, until the unique currency of this Colony shall have lost its extraordinary singularity, and been placed on as sterling a basis as every other undepreciated circulation in the globe.

Paper, to be perfect as a circulating medium, must be on a par with the gold or the silver that it promises to pay. To this end it is essential, however, that the issues of that paper should be placed under some other control than the fluctuating discretion of a few Bank Proprietors. Increase paper money, without increasing trade, and every pound note must experience a depreciation in its value. If a currency of twenty thousand pounds was yesterday sufficient for the Colony, a currency of forty thousand must to-day be superfluous. It is certain, however, that if forced into circulation these pounds will circulate; but, in circulating, must each lose one-half of its value; so that the whole forty thousand pounds will be worth no more now than the whole twenty thousand formerly; and all those commodities, which sold lately for one pound, will now sell for two. But the expences of Government must be

regulated by the market price of articles. If therefore, Treasury bills were formerly drawn upon England for two hundred thousand pounds, four hundred thousand will now be required; and for every twenty thousand pounds that each a bank may add to such a currency, she will double the expenditure of Government; and, gloating thus the Sydney market with an indigestible mass of two hundred thousand pounds worth of additional Treasury bills, will thereby create a large fund, out of which she can herself readily draw to meet any run that may happen to take place for the consolidation of her own notes.

Supposing the Mint of London was kind enough to furnish the Bank of England with sovereigns for as many pound notes as she chose to carry there, then would that bank be precisely in the same relation to the Government of the Mother Country, in which the Bank of this Colony has hitherto been to the Government of the Colony. No restraint would then exist to an excessive over-issue of paper on the part of the Bank of England. The check, however, that actually operates is as follows:—If the Bank over-issue her notes, she raises the price of every commodity, and of bullion among the rest. For instance, in the year 1814 the Bank rose the price of gold, by her excessive over-issues of paper, to £3 4s. the ounce. Had the Restriction Act not been in force, she would consequently have been obliged to have purchased with more than sixty-two of her own one pound notes every pound weight of gold she might have required; which gold, on being carried to the mint, could have been coined only into forty-four guineas and a half, and must have accordingly consolidated less than forty-seven of the same notes if presented for payment. By any run upon the Bank at this time, the proprietors would therefore have incurred a ruinous loss of upwards of thirty per cent.; and a class of individuals would immediately have arisen, whose sole trade would have consisted in realising a profit from her loss, by purchasing bank notes with bullion, exchanging those notes for guineas, melting those guineas into bullion, and purchasing bank notes again.

Now the Treasury bills here perform exactly the same function with respect to our paper currency, as the legal coin in England. If, therefore, the Bank in this Colony be obliged to suffer in its purchase of those bills, by the high price to which silver may attain in consequence of her over-issues—then, and then only, shall we possess a guarantee against the excess of her paper ever becoming injurious to the best interests of the country.

I cannot here forbear to express my surprise at the want of information which seems to exist with respect to that invaluable coin, which has for centuries been disseminating its benefits over every other portion of the earth—a want of information evidenced in the “embarrassing and ruinous consequences” which you, without hesitation, predict as likely to result from the system lately adopted by the commissariat, of paying for the supplies required by Government in Spanish dollars;—a coin which from the extension of its circulation over every part of the commercial globe, may justly be defined the money of the world. Like the air which we breathe, unlimited in the extent of the blessing which it showers over all mankind; like the ocean that surrounds our continent, a grand circulating medium assisting to waft to every part of the world the various products of her diversified climates. Driven, indeed, from the United Kingdom by her monies of sterling denomination, it still however maintains all its pre-eminence in every one of her colonies. Confined in its advantages to no faith, kindred, or Government, I refer you, for an antidote to your dismal apprehension of its ruinous consequences here, to those sterling benefits it has for ages been bestowing on the British and Protestant North American Colonies; on the French and Papal Canadas; on Mahomedan India; and, on the whole world.—And while reading the history of the prosperity of those places, in the history of the introduction of that coin, pause an instant while you turn to contemplate the adversity that has ever been attended on a ruinous over-issue of paper.

For Gentlemen, it ought to be remembered that the injury formerly effected by diminishing the quantity of bullion contained in many of the same denomination, is now perpetrated to a more ruinous extent by the depreciation of paper. The standard of a currency is as effectually degraded by a body of bankers over-issuing paper, as by a Government debasing the coin. A bank note, which will purchase sixteen shilling worth of silver only but which is forced on the Public at twenty, is a circulating medium fully as pernicious as a guinea which is ordered by Government to pass for six and twenty shillings. If, therefore, our Bank by their over-issue of paper, make the dollar, which is elsewhere current for four shillings and two pence, pass here for five shillings (a supposition well known to be in perfect accordance with fact,) that they virtually degrade our standard I most ever maintain:—and I insist the more pointedly on this, because I observe, in two parts of your Address, that the dollars, lately introduced by the Commissariat, are termed a depreciated currency!—And truly, they have been depreciated; but it is only by the over-issue of paper.

The high price of bullion, in any country, is a proof of the over-issue of its paper. The whole history of the Bank of England, since the Restriction Act, sufficiently shows it. Till the year 1799 (being two years only after the Bank of England had suspended its cash payments),

the market price of silver was about five shillings and a penny per ounce, and the notes in circulation, at that time, amounted to ten millions. In the year 1812, the bank circulation amounted to twenty-five millions, and in this year the ounce of silver was six shillings and six pence. Knowing then, that the Sydney Bank Directors in the exercise of the power of trading in bullion conferred on them by their charter, purchased, until very lately always at five shillings, that same Spanish dollar, which is payment for the English pound note, is exchanging for four shillings and two pence,—this fact must speak for itself. The Sydney pound-note, when compared with the same note of the Bank of England, is under a depreciation of twenty per cent. An alarming depreciation, indeed, considering that our chartered Company has not yet been established much more than five years!

When, therefore, I behold the inhabitants of this Colony, on the one hand, slumbering in the most perfect indifference, whilst the Proprietors of an Institution, of five years growth only, have already depreciated the incomes of every one of us full twenty per cent., and if allowed to pursue an unchecked career, will render them shortly of no value at all; whilst I perceive, on the other, their groundless alarm at the introduction of the only remedy that this inveterate disease will admit, I cannot forbear to call to my recollection, the inhabitants also of Lima, who accustomed from infancy to earthquakes of annual visitation, view, with perfect indifference, these most tremendous inflictions of Providence; but no sooner did a thunder-clap upon one occasion, and a few drops of rain fall on that terrestrial paradise, which is watered only by the dews of Heaven, than all conditions rushed in an instant to the churches, received hasty absolution from the priesthood, and awaited, in awful expectation, the approaching dissolution of the world!

I know, Gentlemen, that until lately, the effects here of an over-issue of paper have been neutralised by the effects of a similar over-issue in England. The currencies of both countries, having been depreciated together, their notes exchanged between themselves as they ought to have exchanged—at par. By the destruction, however, of 140 banking houses in England, in the year 1814, the tone of her paper was gradually restored and all further depreciation prevented by the memorable bill of Mr. Peel. Since which, however, the Government of this country, continuing notwithstanding to exchange its Treasury bills on a par, with Sydney Bank paper, has been virtually paying on all importations a bounty of twenty per cent. A bounty on importations! A novel experiment truly, of mercantile policy, left for this late age, and this young Colony, first to attempt! To obtain this bounty, however the Merchants of the Colony were importing a deluge of British manufactures; to obtain the same bounty, the Traders of India were sending their specie to the market of New South Wales. Hitherto, the demands for Treasury bills had not outstepped the wants of the Colonial Government. Now, however, the case appeared altered. Every circumstance seemed to indicate that demands for these bills would be made on the Commissary to treble the amount of the wants of his department. Affairs had arrived at a crisis, and it was necessary to adopt some effective measure to stem the double inundation. It was easy for the merchant importers of British manufactures to advise me to ruin the hopes of the many persons, now on their passage with cargoes of dollars, by refusing them permission to enter into competition with themselves for the purchase of Treasury bills. Equally easy, no doubt would it also have been for the India Traders to request that those same bills might be solely reserved for their dollar speculations to the exclusion of all adventures in British manufactures!—His Majesty's Colonial Government, however, could never assent to either of these propositions. It must hold the balance of justice even between all speculations, and dispose of the so-eagerly-sought Treasury bill, only to the highest bidder. Very sorry would I for my own part, be to make use of so dangerous a weapon to paralyse the freedom of Commerce as you, Gentlemen, the Landholders, the Merchants, and Free Colonists of New South Wales, now offer to my acceptance. Were I to receive the instrument you seem so anxious to place in my hands, what security could afterwards offer to yourselves that the same weapon, after it had ruined the speculations of the merchant importers of dollars, would not, with equal success, be diverted against the fortunes, Gentlemen, of you, the authors and advisers of the short-sighted measure. If then, by any purchases, which the Commissary may be authorised to make on the principle of free competition, your properties be really depreciated, as you state in your Address full twenty per cent.; however sincerely I must lament the disappointment that this will occasion, I cannot be diverted from the plan I am at present pursuing for the purpose of continuing to your speculation a monopoly of Treasury bills, which has raised thus much above the level of its natural price, every article formerly purchased by Government.

GENTLEMEN.—In conclusion, I cannot too publicly express the satisfaction I experience from the pleasure of meeting the Landholders, the Merchants, and Free Colonists of New South Wales, upon all occasions; and more particularly when exercising the inestimable privilege, so dear to every British-born Subject, of preferring all topics of supposed complaint before the legal Representative of their Sovereign!

THOMAS BRISBANE.

Selections.

Address of the Native Inhabitants of Calcutta.—The Most Noble the MARQUESS of HASTINGS having appointed yesterday, (Monday) for receiving the Address of the Native Inhabitants of Calcutta,—between 10 and 11 o'clock, those deputed to present it, and many other Natives amounting to about three or four hundred in all, proceeded with several European Ladies and Gentlemen of respectability to the Government House, and were received by His Lordship in the Banqueting Room, which Lady Hastings also honoured with her presence. The Address was read by Radhakant Deb, (who is the son of Gopee Mohan Deb, and the same Hindoo Orator whom we have already mentioned as taking an active part in the proceedings at the Town Hall, and being a strenuous Defender of a certain "sacred religious right" of the Hindoos, so severely condemned by the FRIENDS OF INDIANS, and other Radical-reforming Publications) and after he had finished reading it—His Lordship replied in a brief and appropriate Speech, the Persian Secretary acting as Interpreter. Thereafter, GORE KISSAN DIN, who also shone as an Orator at the Town Hall, expressed his deep regret that His Lordship was about to depart from among them and warmly implored blessings on him and his family. His Excellency in the most affable manner thanked him for his kind wishes, cordially shaking him by the hand, and mentioning that his domestic affairs (we believe allusion to have been made to the education of his family) urged his immediate return to his own country, Hurkara.

Furious Driving.

To the Editor of the Bengal Hurkara.

SIR,

I think the Letter of your Correspondent in the HURKARA of this morning signed "A LOVER OF JUSTICE," is calculated to make an erroneous impression on the public mind, as to the power invested in the Magistrates of Calcutta, to punish offences of the nature complained of by him; the more so as it goes the length of stating the worthy Magistrate's declaration to be that "there was no provision in the Bye Laws, by which a person could be punished for an assault!"

I am strongly inclined to doubt the accuracy of this Statement, under the idea that Mr. Birch's expressions must have been misunderstood, as I will venture to affirm that there is not a person in Calcutta whose knowledge of these Laws has heretofore been looked up to, with so much respect as this Gentleman's; and that such a power does exist, there cannot be even the shadow of a doubt, for the 1st Article of the Rules and Ordinances made, and passed by the Governor General in Council on the 11th of Novr. 1814, states that "if any ASSAULT, forcibly entry, or OTHER INJURY accompanied by force, not being felony, shall be committed in the settlement of Fort William in Bengal against the person or property of any person whatsoever, it shall be lawful for such person to complain of such assault, &c. to two Justices of the Peace, acting in and for the Town of Calcutta, who shall have power and authority to take cognizance of such complaint, to issue their Summons, or Warrant for bringing the party complained of before them,—to hear the parties,—to examine witnesses, and having taken in writing the substance of the complaint, defence and evidence, to acquit or convict the person or persons accused, and in case of conviction, to inflict a suitable punishment, by fine not exceeding Forty Rupees, on each and every person so convicted, and by Warrant to commit such offender to the common Gaol of Calcutta for any period not exceeding two months, &c." But this penalty not having had the desired effect in preventing the evil it was intended to remedy, we find the Legislature by a subsequent ordinance, (18th January, 1818,) nearly doubles the forfeiture and punishment in such cases, increasing the sum to One Hundred Rupees, and the term of imprisonment to Three Months!

I admit that there is no power specifically given to the Justices of the Peace, to furnish persons for furious driving, and as far as I can judge, there appears no necessity for it; as even supposing a person does exercise his whip too freely, yet if no accident occurs, I am afraid he could not be punished, for what did not, but only might have happened. The Magistrates at home indeed are clothed with ample authority on this head, but there the case is quite different, it being enacted solely with a view of checking that spirit of rivalry, which existed between the Stage Coach Proprietors, and annually caused the death of many valuable Members of Society; but that not being the case in this country, there can be no necessity for providing a remedy for an evil which does not exist. The case alluded to by your Correspondent was clearly one of Assault, and that too of so flagrant and lawless a character as ought to have called forth, not only the full penalty imposed for offences of this description, but also the warmest reprehension on the part of the Sitting Magistrate for such conduct.

The person who has brought this fact under public notice has alluded to a private note, which he states to have been addressed by prisoner's master to the presiding Judge;—what the contents of this

paper were, I do not pretend to know, but it appears to have had great weight with his Worship when put in opposition to the proffered oath of the complainant, for your Correspondent tells us, that Mr. Birch immediately referred the aggrieved party to the Court of Requests for redress. Surely, Mr. Editor, this must have been in consequence of the paragraph which appeared in your paper some days ago, intimating to the public that a member of that Court was both ready and willing to assist the Magistrates in enforcing these Laws so far as they concerned "unruly servants," and as this appears to be a case coming under that denomination; I think the LOVER OF JUSTICE had better take the worthy Magistrate's advice, and without delay seek that satisfaction which he will undoubtedly receive at the hands of the philanthropic Petty Court Commissioners.

Year's obediently,

BROOM.

Postscript.

It was reported last evening, though not officially communicated from the Bankshall before our Paper went to Press, that the Ship SIR EDWARD PAGET had entered the River, having left England on the 3rd of August. She is said to bring accounts of the death of the Marquess of Londonderry, which intelligence in a political point of view will not we believe cause either deep or general regret, though in his private relations with the world it may afflict many. It is probable that this event may determine Mr. Canning's resignation of the Governor Generalship, and his accession to the Ministry, which will now more than ever need the aid of some commanding individual, in which the firmness to brave and put down every motion for enquiry into grievances, and the talent to talk largely without deep reasoning, may be combined—Mr. Canning as an Orator is no doubt the first man among the supporters of "things as they are" in England; and if Lords Londonderry and Liverpool are lost to the Ministry, the one by death and the other by retirement from office, Mr. Canning will no doubt remain at home to join the Administration. We shall no doubt receive details by this arrival for to-morrow.

Since writing the above we have received Letters from the SIR EDWARD PAGET with a List of her Passengers, which we insert here. We expect our Papers this morning and shall lose no time in publishing the heads of their contents:—

Passengers by the Ship SIR EDWARD PAGET, John Geary, Commander, from Portsmouth 3d August, and Cape 3d November.

For Bengal.

Mrs. Turton,
Mrs. Dashwood,
Mrs. Carroll,
Mrs. Swaine,
Mrs. Webb,
Mrs. Petrie,
Miss Brown,
Miss Johnson,
Lieutenant Colonel Johnson B. E.
Thomas Turton, Esq. Barrister.
Thomas Dashwood, Esq. B. C. S.
John William Carroll, Esq. Free Merchant.
Captain Ross, Bombay Marine.
Capt. Wilkins, B. E.
Lieutenant Swaine, H. M. 44th
Lieut. Madwell, H. M. 14th
Lieut. Oliphant, B. E.
G. Webb, Esq. Surgeon, B. E.
M. Power, Esq. Assistant Surgeon, B. E.
Samuel Woodland, Esq. Licensed to reside.
Messrs. Fraser, Fenning, Fordice, Bracken and Jackson,
Cadets.

For Madras.

Mrs. Lawder,
Captain Smith, M. E.
James Lawder, Assistant Surgeon, M. E.
Mr. Begbie, Cadet.